



**BOOOOM**

**EREN!!**

**Episode 53:  
Smoke Signal**









I  
KNOW  
THAT  
!!

HE'S  
NOT EVEN  
TEN METERS  
TALL, AND  
HE'S MISSING  
SOME  
FLESH.

ALSO,  
EREN'S  
ASS IS  
HANGING  
OUT.

DON'T  
YOU THINK  
HE LOOKS  
DIFFERENT  
THIS  
TIME?



IF YOU  
DON'T,  
WE'RE  
DIGGING  
YOU  
OUT OF  
THERE!

IF SO,  
GIVE ME  
SOME  
SORT  
OF  
SIGNAL  
!!

EREN!! DO  
YOU THINK  
YOU CAN  
STILL MOVE  
YOUR  
TITAN?!



NO,  
HE'S  
NOT  
RE-  
SPOND-  
ING.  
WE'RE  
DONE!

SHOULD  
WE  
PUNISH  
HER?

HEY, THAT  
GLOOMY  
LITTLE  
BRAT IS  
IGNORING  
ORDERS  
AGAIN.

THAK  
THAK

MIKASA!













...SO  
THEY  
FAILED,  
AFTER  
ALL.



MAKE  
ABSO-  
LUTELY  
SURE  
THAT  
THERE  
WERE NO  
WIT-  
NESSES  
!!

WE'RE  
WITH-  
DRAWING!  
SEARCH  
THE PERI-  
METER!



YES,  
SIR!



YOU  
GET IN  
THE SAME  
CARRIAGE  
AS EREN.

ZAKK



HE'S...  
FINE. I  
THINK.  
HE'LL BE  
HANDSOME  
AS EVER IN  
NO TIME!  
I THINK!

ROLL  
ROLL  
ROLL

HOLD  
ON!!



EREN!!

ROLL  
ROLL  
ROLL





THAT TELLTALE  
SMOKE GOES UP  
WHENEVER HE  
TURNS INTO A  
TITAN. EVEN  
DEEP IN THE  
MOUNTAINS...

WE  
REALLY  
CAN'T DO  
THIS  
QUIETLY,  
CAN WE...?



GGGTT



...WE NEED  
TO ASSUME  
THAT THEY'RE  
WATCHING US  
FROM  
SOMEWHERE...





I  
SLEPT  
FOR A  
WHOLE  
DAY...?



I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
IT...



ANYWAY,  
DO YOU  
REMEMBER  
THE  
EXPERIMENT  
WE RAN?

HUH?

MIKASA  
PROBABLY  
WON'T  
SLICE ME  
TO  
SHREDS  
NOW.

H M?

I'M  
GLAD  
YOU'RE  
BACK TO  
NORMAL.









YOU  
TRANSFORMED  
INTO A TITAN IN  
ORDER TO HARDEN  
YOUR BODY AND  
FILL A GIANT CAVE  
THAT STOOD IN  
FOR WALL  
MARIA.

THIS IS  
HOW THE  
EXPERI-  
MENT  
WENT.

BUT SINCE  
NOTHING  
HAPPENED, WE  
PROCEEDED WITH  
OUR BACKUP  
PLAN AND RAN  
ENDURANCE AND  
INTELLIGENCE  
TESTS.

THE  
SAME SIZE  
AS THE  
ONES  
YOU'VE  
MADE  
APPEAR IN  
THE PAST.

THE  
FIRST  
TITAN  
WAS A  
15-ME-  
TER  
CLASS  
...

W  
E  
L  
L  
...

BUT  
NOTHING  
ABOUT  
THE  
RESULTS  
...

I  
REMEM-  
BER HOW  
THE  
PLAN  
WENT...



IT SEEMS YOUR MOUTH IS NOT STRUCTURED FOR SPEECH.

WE TRIED TO HAVE YOU SPEAK, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.

YOU SEEMED FULLY CONSCIOUS, AND FOLLOWED ANY ORDERS, NO MATTER WHO GAVE THEM TO YOU.

WE GAVE YOU SIMPLE ORDERS AT FIRST, LIKE TO RAISE ONE FOOT OR WAVE YOUR ARMS.

YOU WERE ABLE TO DO FAIRLY DETAILED JOBS. YOU COULD PROBABLY BUILD A CASTLE AS A TITAN QUITE EASILY.

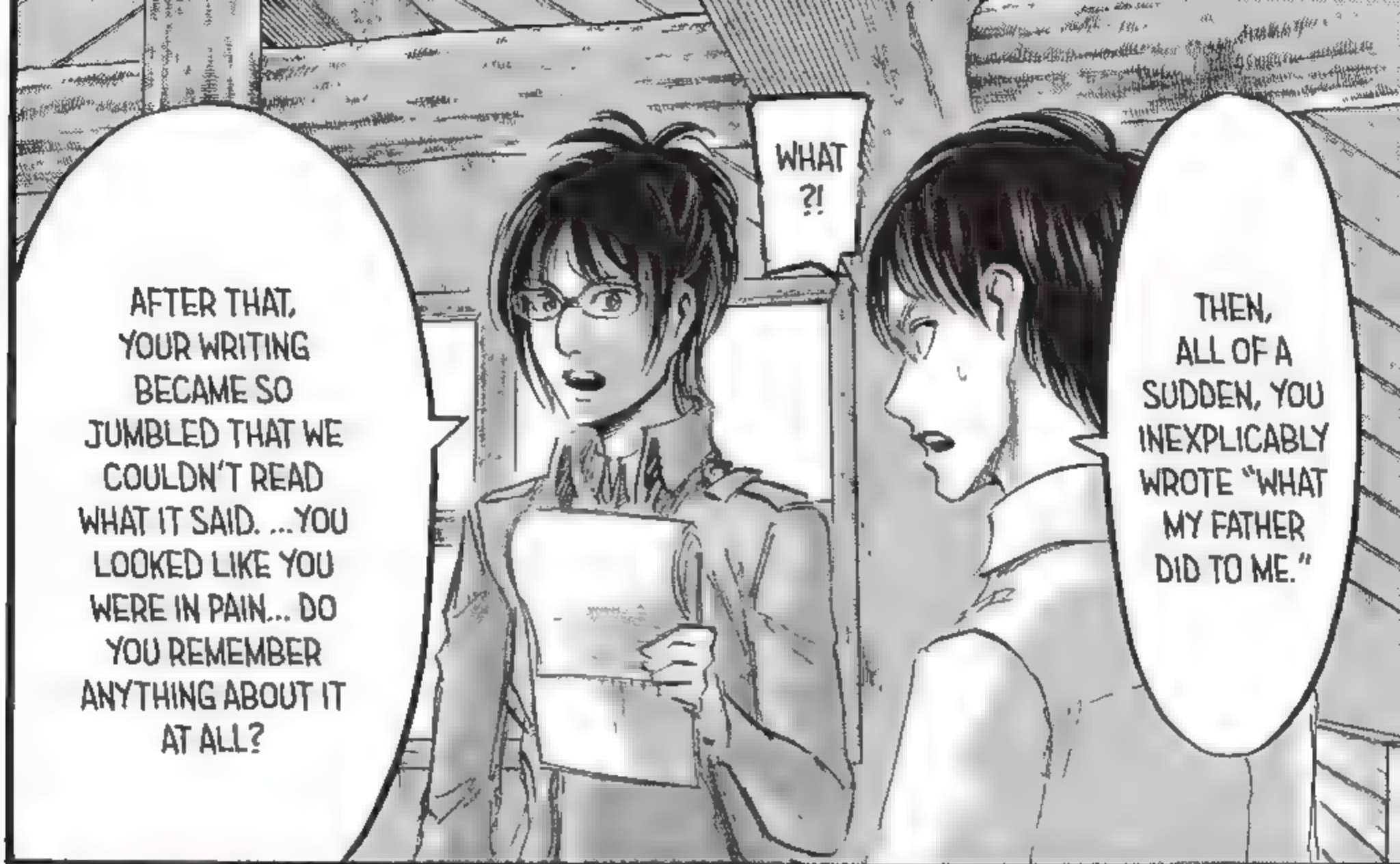
NEXT, WE HAD YOU PERFORM TASKS USING LOGS AND ROPE.

YOU HAD BEEN WRITING, "I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HARDEN MYSELF."

IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE WRITING IN THE GROUND IN ORDER TO COMMUNICATE TO US.

BUT AFTER AN HOUR OR SO PASSED, WE SAW A CHANGE.





AFTER THAT,  
YOUR WRITING  
BECAME SO  
JUMBLED THAT WE  
COULDN'T READ  
WHAT IT SAID. ...YOU  
LOOKED LIKE YOU  
WERE IN PAIN... DO  
YOU REMEMBER  
ANYTHING ABOUT IT  
AT ALL?

WHAT  
?!

THEN,  
ALL OF A  
SUDDEN, YOU  
INEXPLICABLY  
WROTE "WHAT  
MY FATHER  
DID TO ME."



...AFTER  
THAT, YOU  
WRITHED  
AROUND  
FOR ABOUT  
THIRTY  
MINUTES...

I  
DON'T  
...



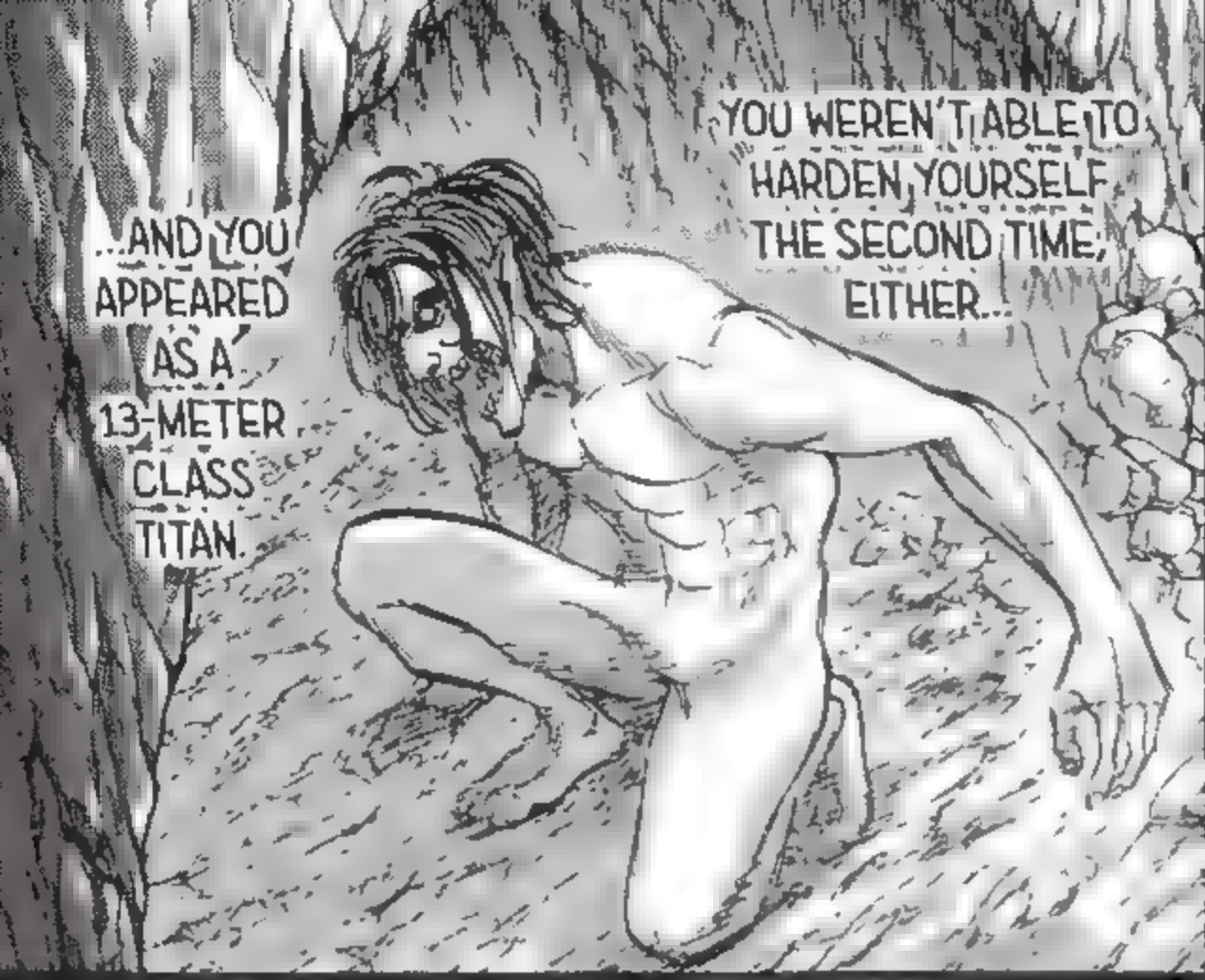
AND  
THAT YOU  
WERE ONLY  
HALF-CON-  
SCIOUS.

WE  
COULD  
TELL  
THEN  
THAT  
YOUR  
MEMORY  
WAS  
CLOUDY,



THEN YOU  
EXITED  
YOUR TITAN,  
PROBABLY  
OF YOUR  
OWN  
CHOICE.





...AND YOU  
APPEARED  
AS A  
13-METER  
CLASS  
TITAN.

YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO  
HARDEN YOURSELF  
THE SECOND TIME,  
EITHER...

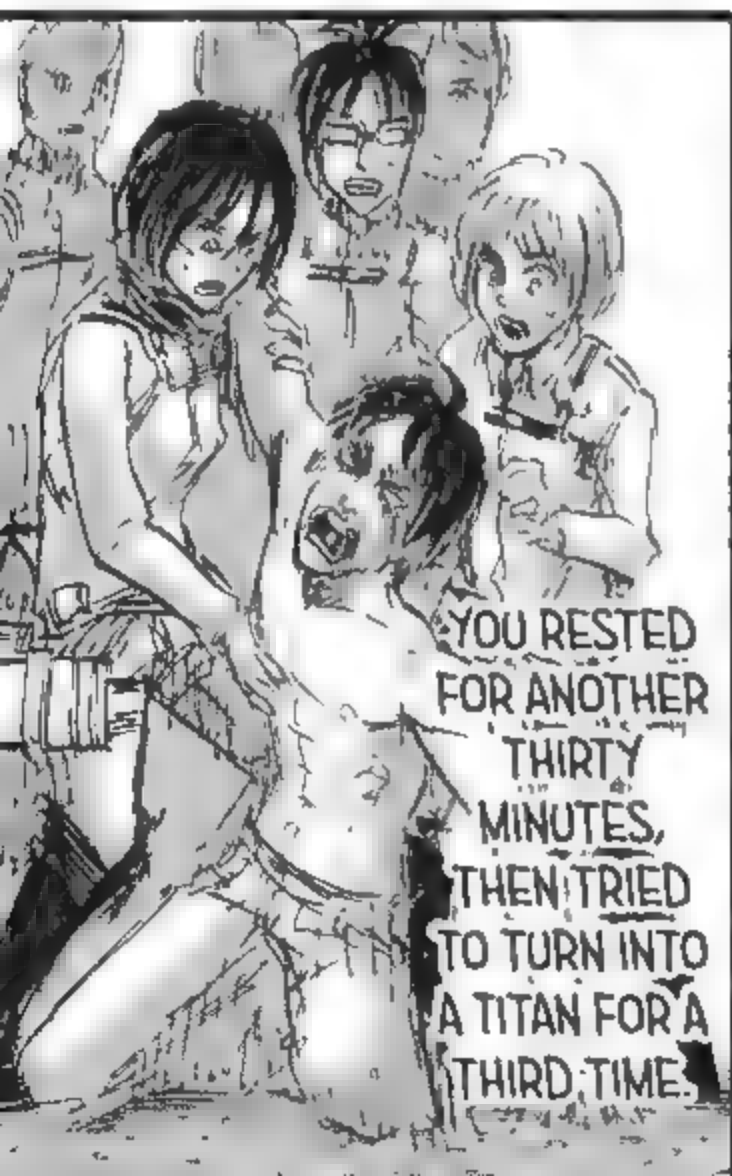


AFTER YOU  
RESTED  
FOR HALF  
AN HOUR,  
YOU TRIED  
TURNING  
INTO A  
TITAN ONCE  
MORE

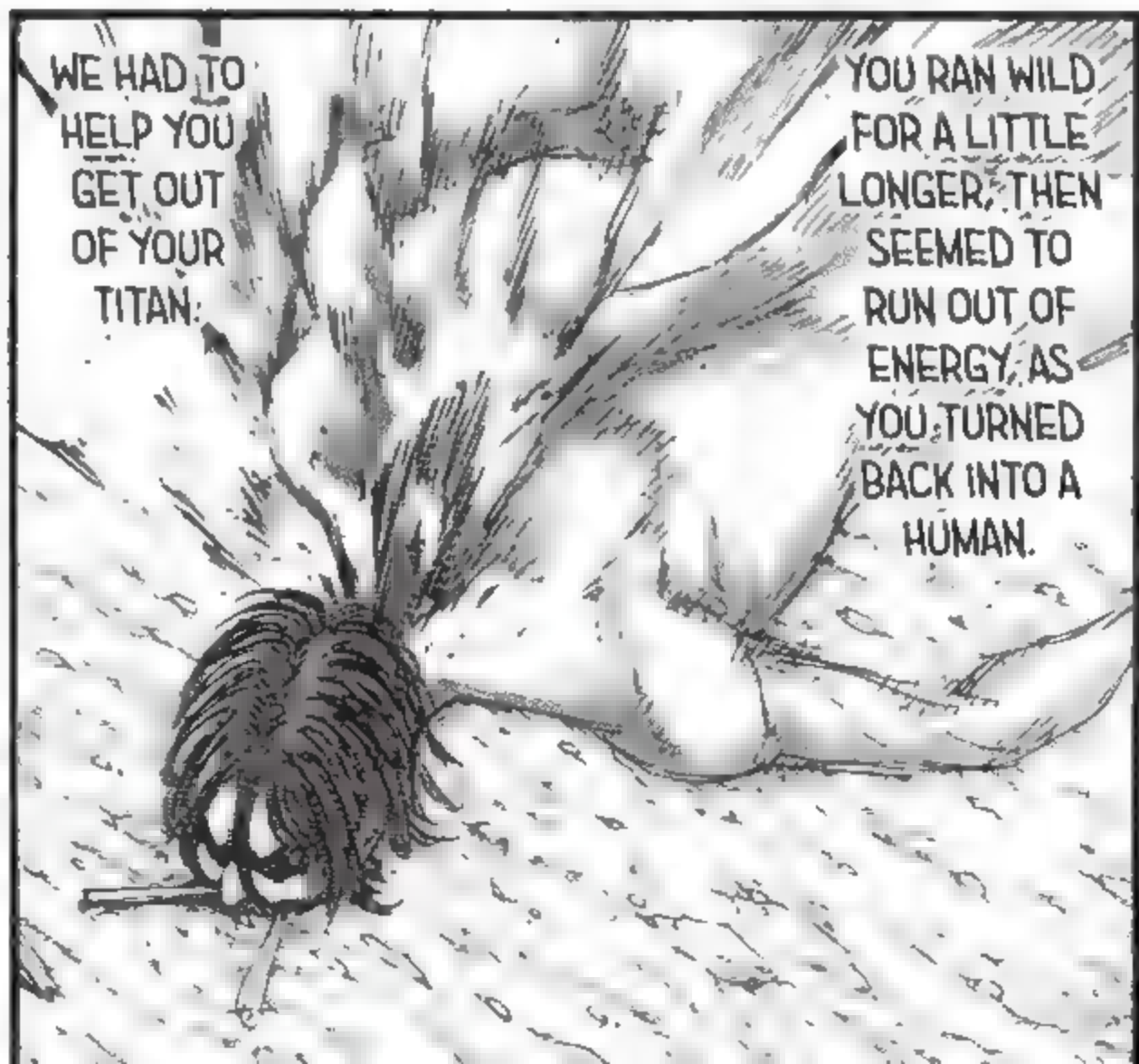


NONE OF OUR  
ORDERS  
REACHED  
YOU, AND  
YOU SEEMED  
TO BE  
INCREDIBLY  
HUNGRY. YOU  
ATE THE  
HOUSE YOU  
BUILT  
EARLIER.

WE TRIED TO  
RUN THE  
EARLIER  
INTELLIGENCE  
TESTS AGAIN,  
BUT  
COULDN'T.



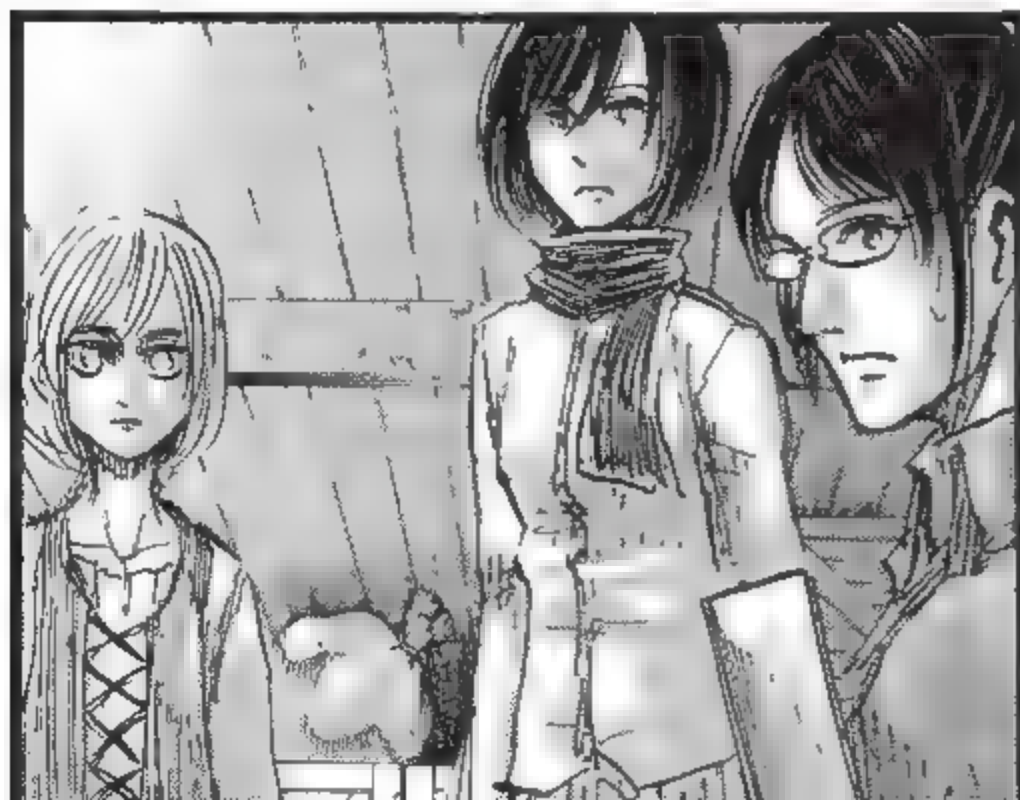
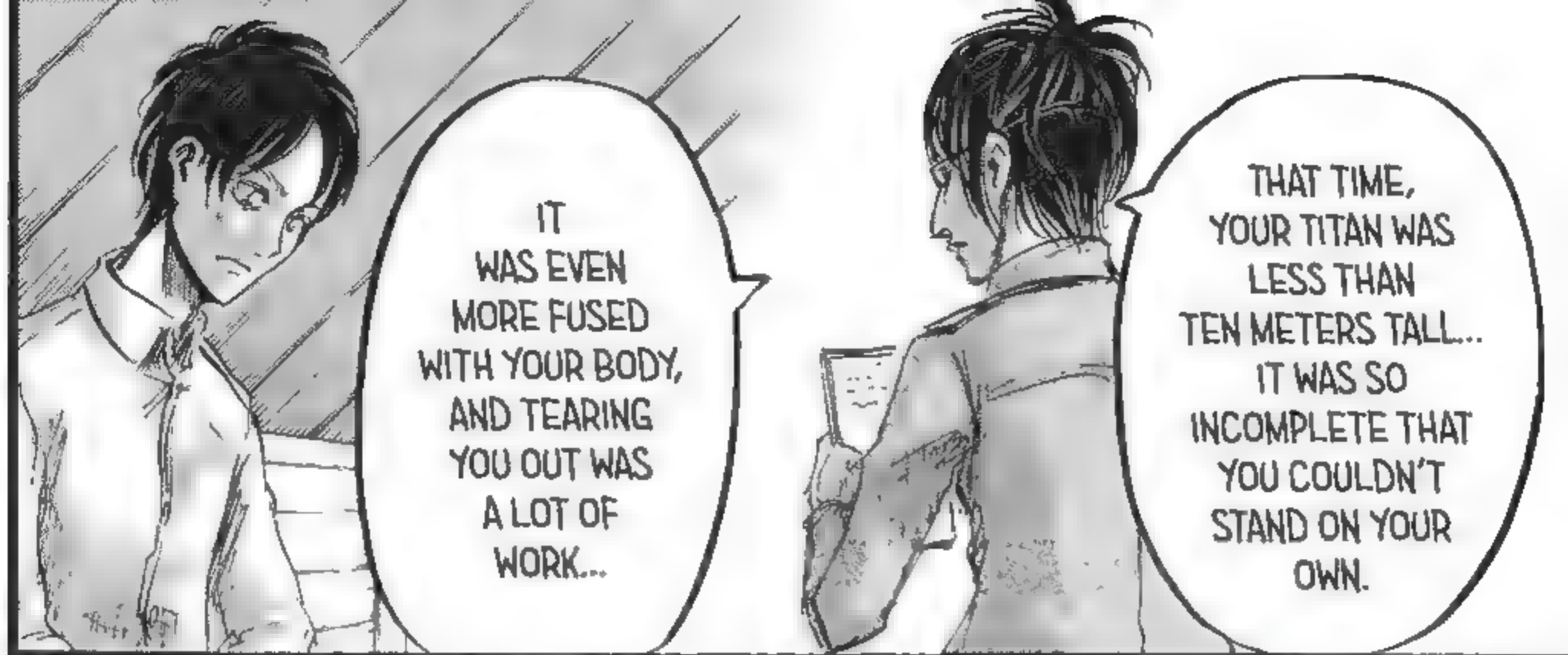
YOU RESTED  
FOR ANOTHER  
THIRTY  
MINUTES,  
THEN TRIED  
TO TURN INTO  
A TITAN FOR A  
THIRD TIME.



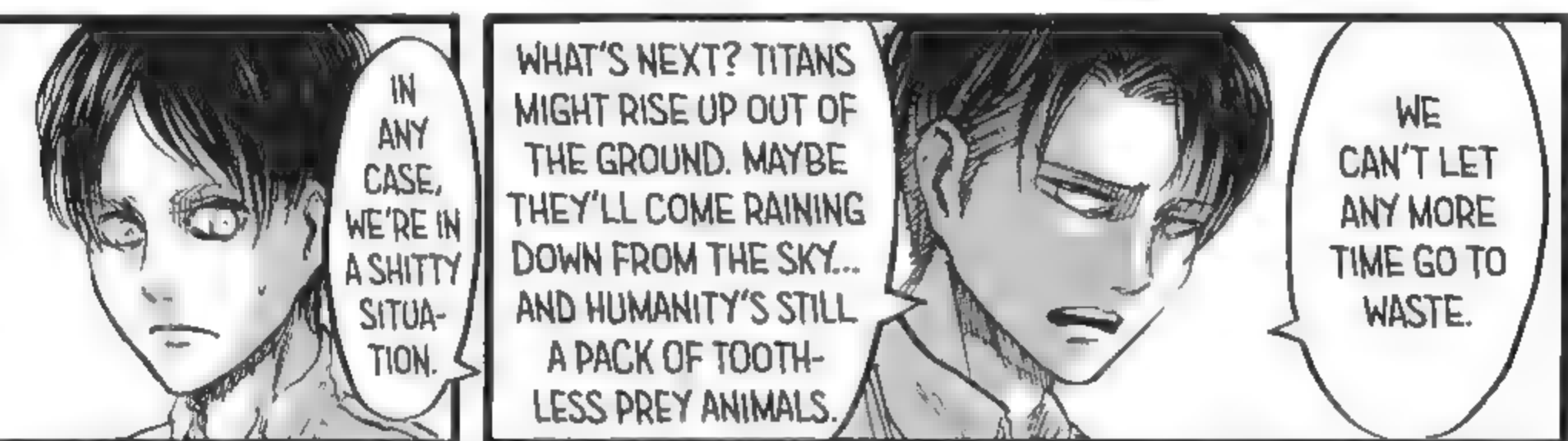
WE HAD TO  
HELP YOU  
GET OUT  
OF YOUR  
TITAN.

YOU RAN WILD  
FOR A LITTLE  
LONGER, THEN  
SEEMED TO  
RUN OUT OF  
ENERGY, AS  
YOU TURNED  
BACK INTO A  
HUMAN.













THAT'S  
OUR  
SITUA-  
TION.

IT'S  
BEEN THAT  
WAY FOR OVER  
A HUNDRED  
YEARS. WE'VE  
ALWAYS LIVED  
IN SHIT.

TAKE A  
WHIFF. INSIDE  
THESE WALLS,  
THE AIR'S  
ALWAYS STUNK  
LIKE TRASH.



I SAW  
IT AS  
NORMAL.

AFTER  
ALL, I'VE  
SUCKED IN THIS  
STINK SINCE  
THE DAY I WAS  
BORN.


I DIDN'T  
NOTICE IT  
UNTIL JUST  
A FEW  
YEARS  
AGO.






OUT  
THERE, I  
FINALLY  
SAW WHAT  
I'D BEEN  
MISSING.

...BUT  
IT'S GOT  
SOMETHING  
THE WALLS  
DON'T.  
FREEDOM.

YES,  
LIFE  
OUT  
THERE  
IS  
HELL...



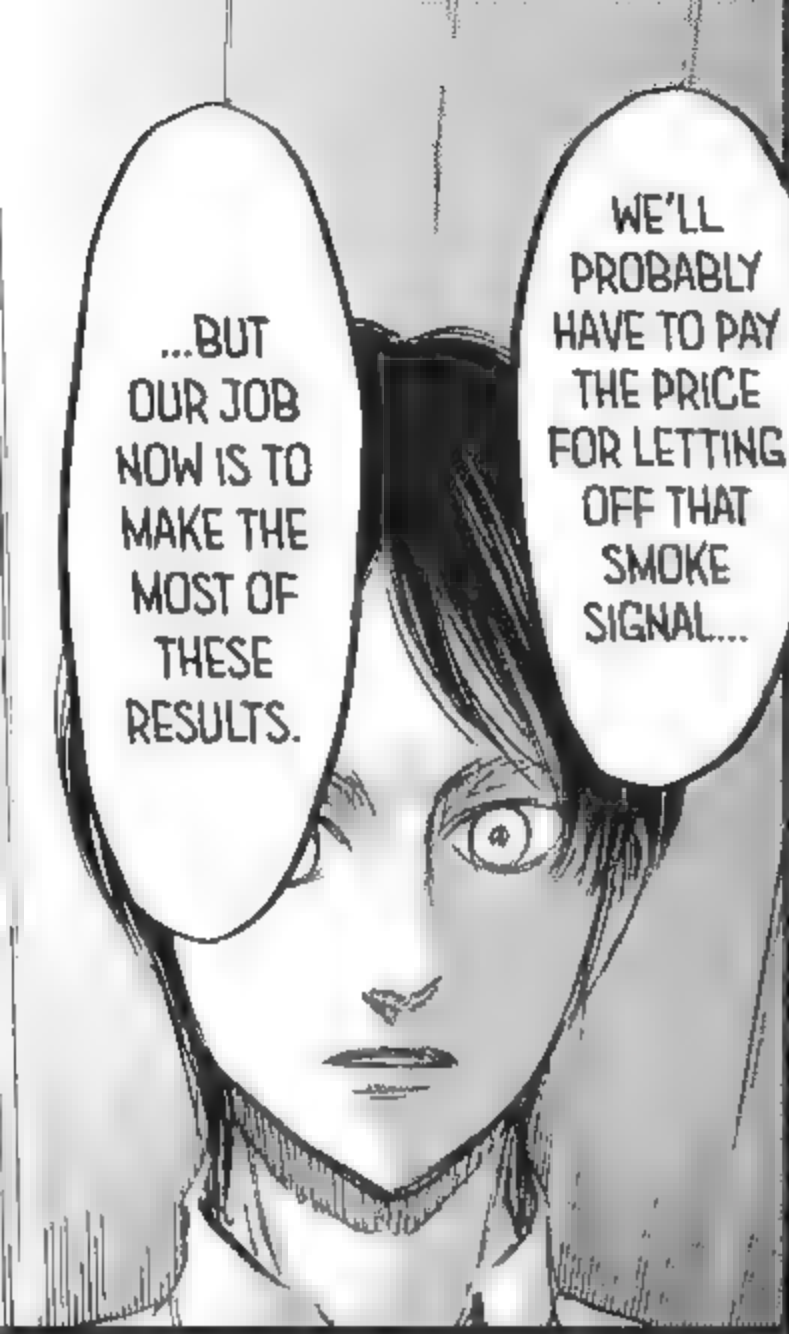
BUT  
THE AIR I  
BREATHED  
OUTSIDE  
THE  
WALLS  
WAS  
DIFFER-  
ENT.



...WE  
LEARNED THAT  
YOU CAN'T  
HARDEN YOUR  
TITAN BODY. AND  
THAT'S A  
SUCCESS.

...IN  
OTHER  
WORDS,  
WHAT LEVI'S  
TRYING TO  
SAY IS...





...BUT  
OUR JOB  
NOW IS TO  
MAKE THE  
MOST OF  
THESE  
RESULTS.

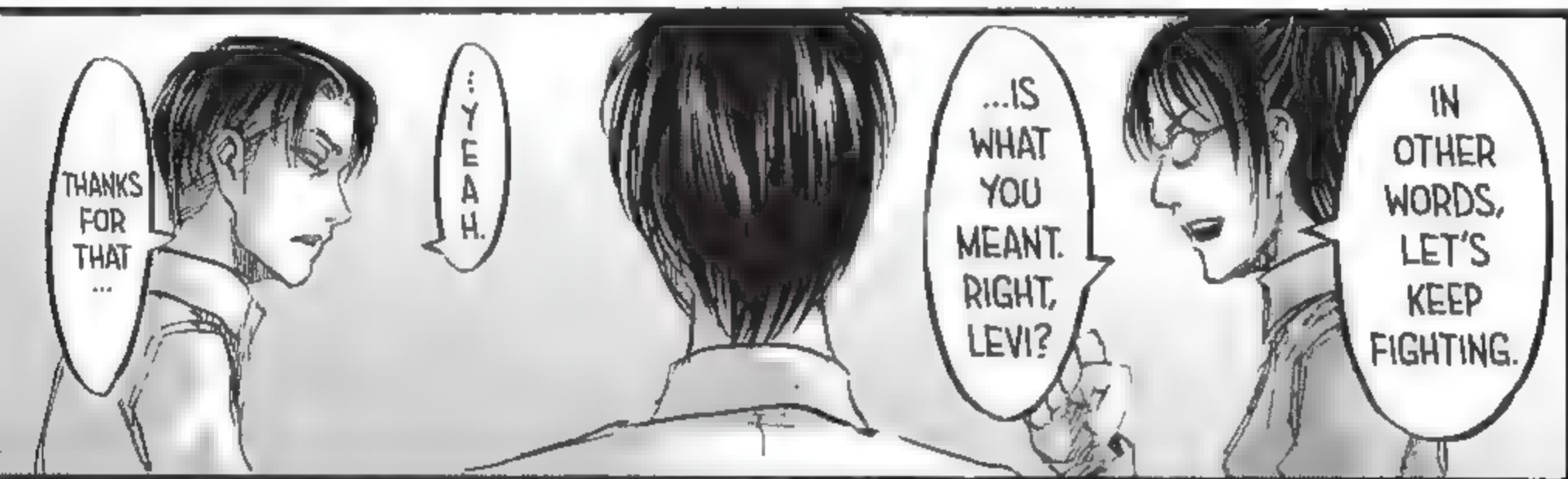
WE'LL  
PROBABLY  
HAVE TO PAY  
THE PRICE  
FOR LETTING  
OFF THAT  
SMOKE  
SIGNAL....



EVERY-  
THING THAT  
HAPPENED  
DURING THIS  
EXPERIMENT  
GAVE US  
USEFUL  
INFORMA-  
TION.

WE ALSO  
LEARNED HOW  
LONG YOU CAN  
STAY A TITAN  
AFTER MULTIPLE  
TRANSFORMA-  
TIONS, AND WE  
GOT A ROUGH  
IDEA OF YOUR  
VERSATILITY  
AND  
LIMITATIONS

THAT'S  
NOT ALL,  
EITHER!



THANKS  
FOR  
THAT  
...

...YEAH.

...IS  
WHAT  
YOU  
MEANT.  
RIGHT,  
LEVI?

IN  
OTHER  
WORDS,  
LET'S  
KEEP  
FIGHTING.



...SAVING  
HUMANITY,  
REPAYING  
HANNES  
AND THE  
OTHERS—

WHY WAS I  
THE ONE  
GIVEN THIS  
ROLE...?  
AT THIS  
RATE...



Grp  
7/11





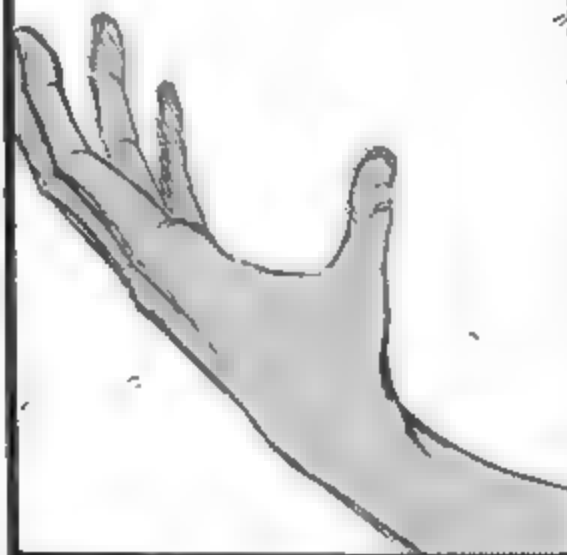
I WON'T  
BE ABLE  
TO DO IT.

FOR NOW,  
I'M  
IGNORANT  
AND  
POWER-  
LESS!



LEARNING  
THAT  
FACT  
MIGHT BE  
THE  
BEGIN-  
NING OF  
SOME-  
THING  
NEW.

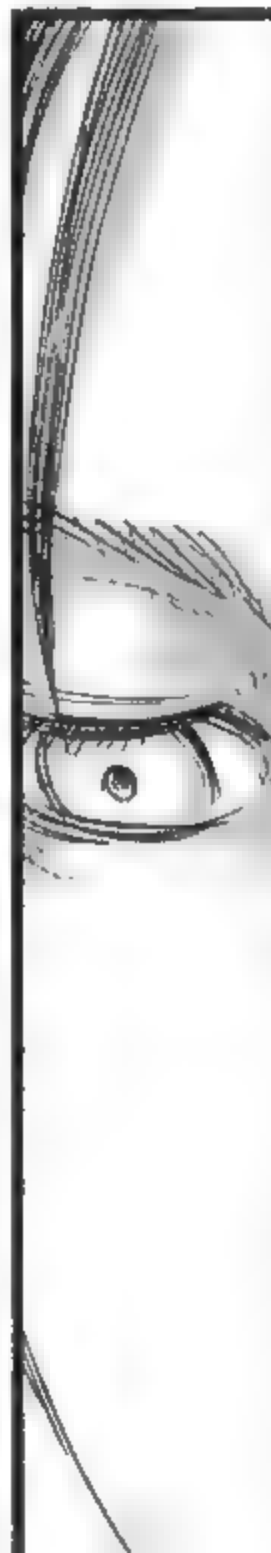
BUT...



WOULD I HAVE  
BEEN ABLE TO  
CONTROL MY  
TITAN FOR  
LONGER IF  
THAT HADN'T  
HAPPENED?



BUT... WHY  
DID I  
THINK OF  
MY FATHER  
DURING  
THE  
EXPERI-  
MENTS?



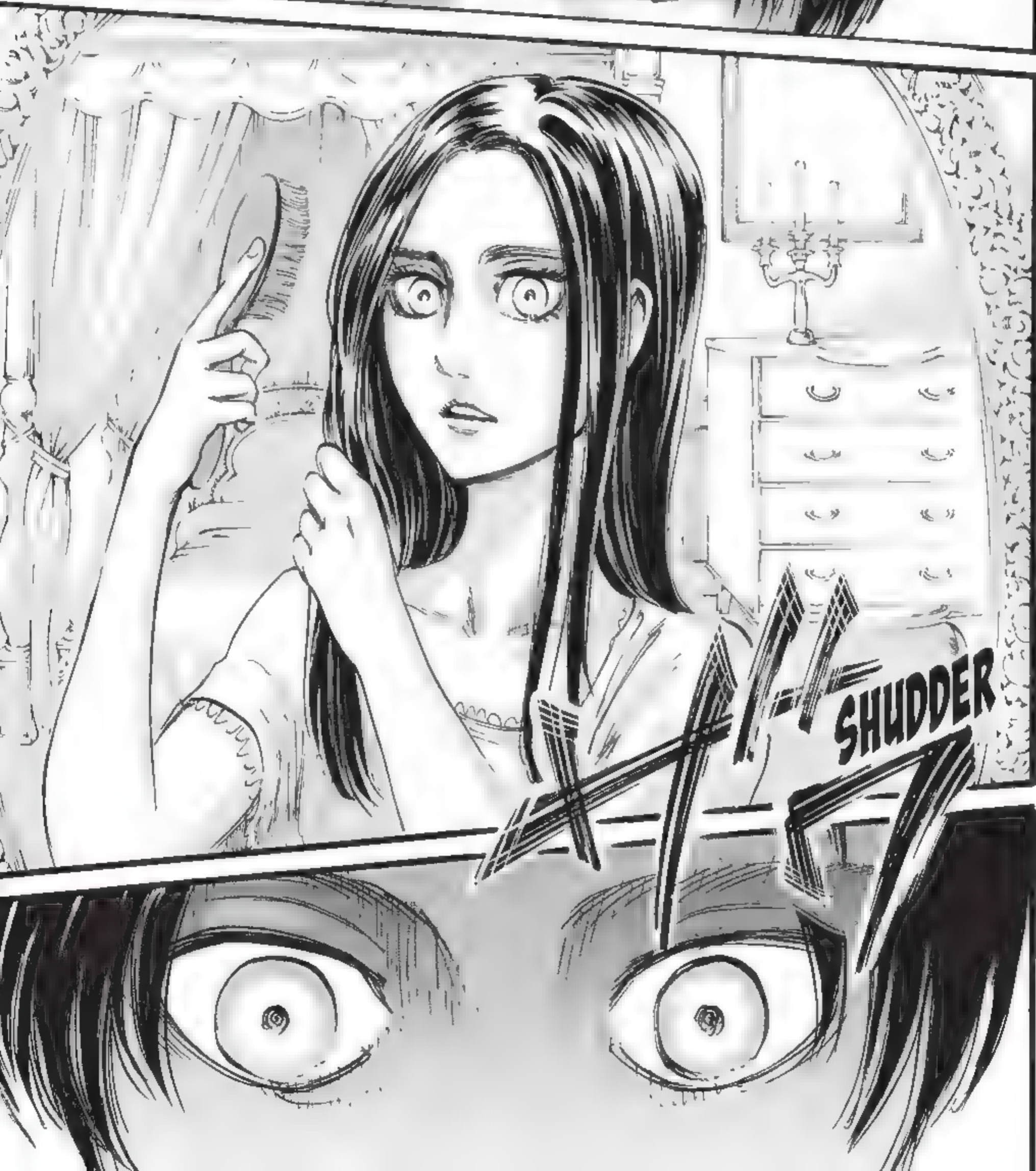
...FOR NOW...



WHERE ARE YOU  
LIVING RIGHT  
NOW...?

FATHER...

...OR ARE YOU  
ALREADY...







IS THIS A  
MEMORY?

...WHEN IS IT  
FROM?

HISTORIA?

NO, THAT'S  
NOT HER...



AH...

I CAN'T...  
NOT AGAIN...

U  
G  
H

ANY MORE AND...



AH...  
YEAH  
...

HM...?



DON'T PUSH  
YOUR-  
SELF.

YOU'RE  
STILL  
WEAK.




...OUR  
NEXT  
STEP  
IS  
CLEAR.

NOW  
THAT WE  
KNOW  
THAT  
YOU  
CAN'T  
HARDEN  
YOUR  
TITAN...

AS TO  
WHERE  
WE GO  
FROM  
HERE...

WHAT WAS I JUST  
THINKING?





THEY  
MIGHT KNOW  
HOW THEY  
WERE MADE...  
OR IN OTHER  
WORDS,  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT TITAN  
HARDEN-  
ING.

THEY  
SEEM TO  
KNOW  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT THE  
ORIGIN OF THE  
WALLS MADE  
OUT OF  
HARDENED  
TITANS.



WE'LL  
GO AFTER  
THE WALLISTS  
AND  
EVERYONE  
AROUND  
THEM.



NOW THAT  
ERWIN'S IN  
THE ROYAL  
CAPITAL...



ALSO...



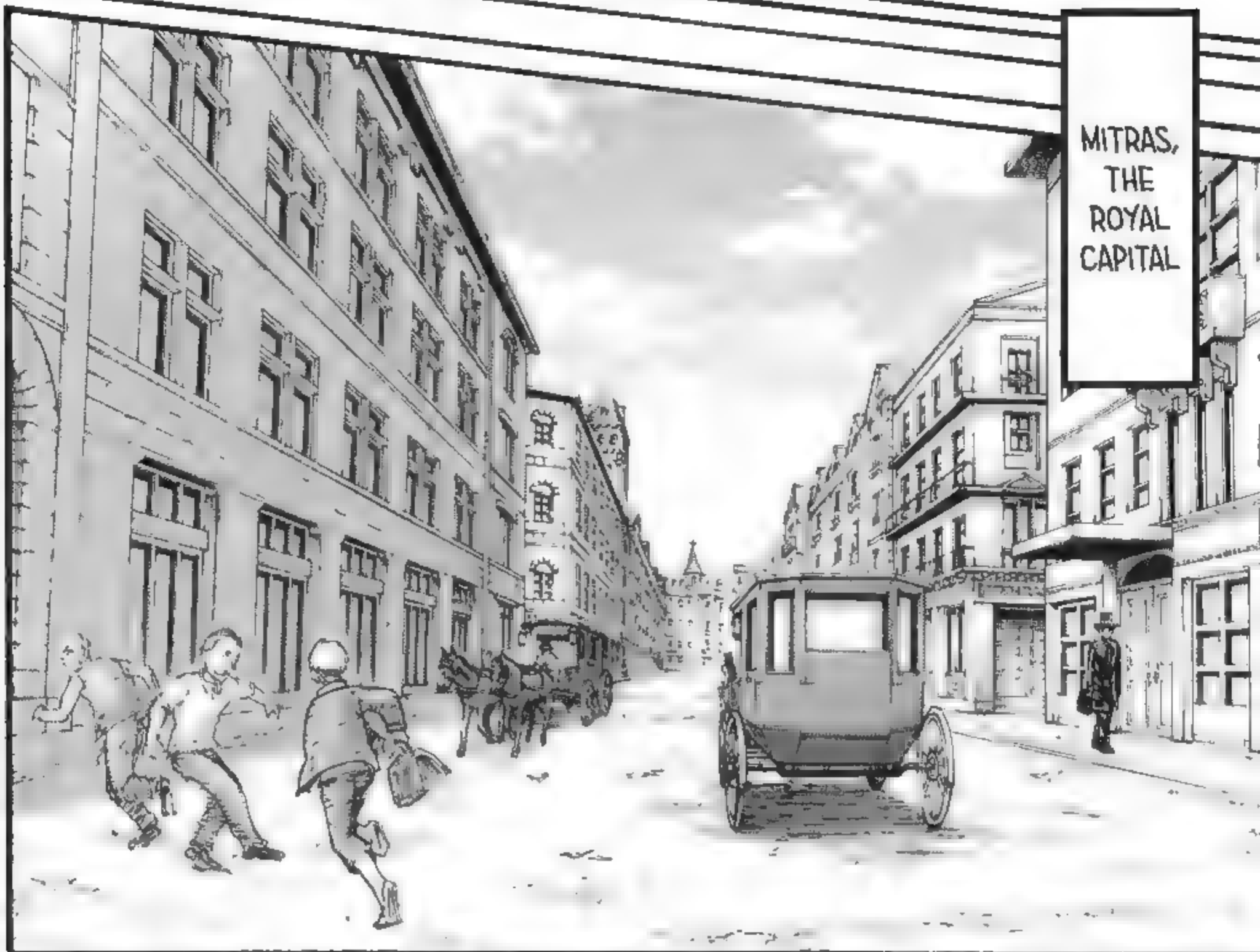
...AND NOT  
THE RULER  
OF  
HUMANITY,  
THE KING...

...ARE  
THE ONES  
ALLOWED  
TO LEARN  
THOSE  
SECRETS.

HE  
SHOULD  
KNOW  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT WHY  
THE REISS  
FAMILY...



MITRAS,  
THE  
ROYAL  
CAPITAL

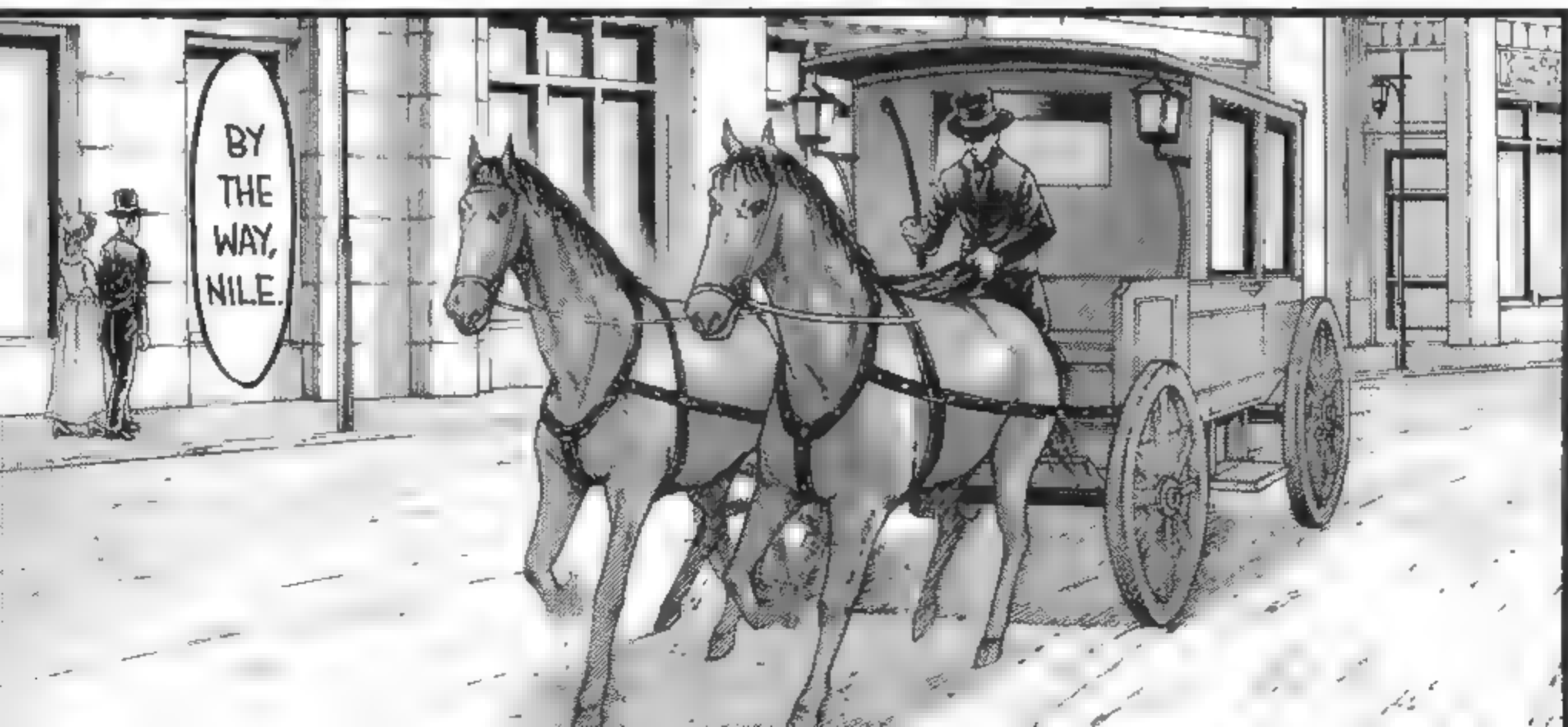
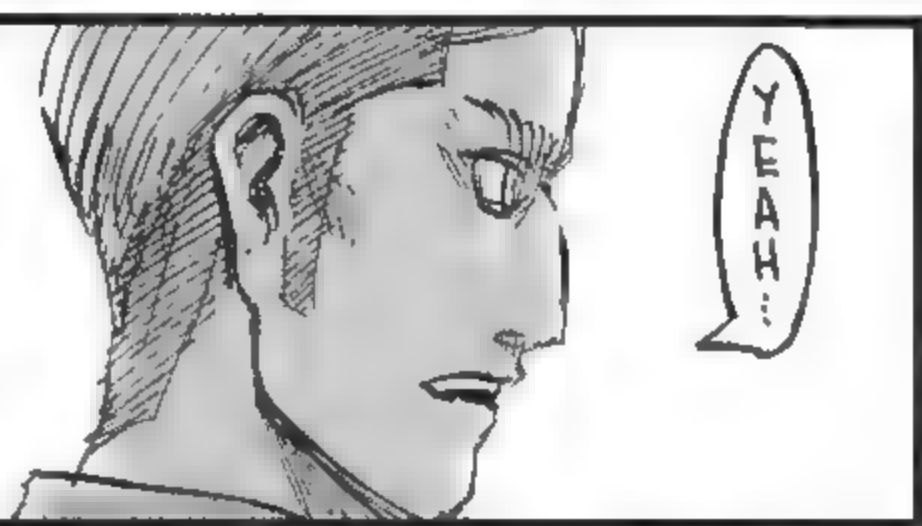
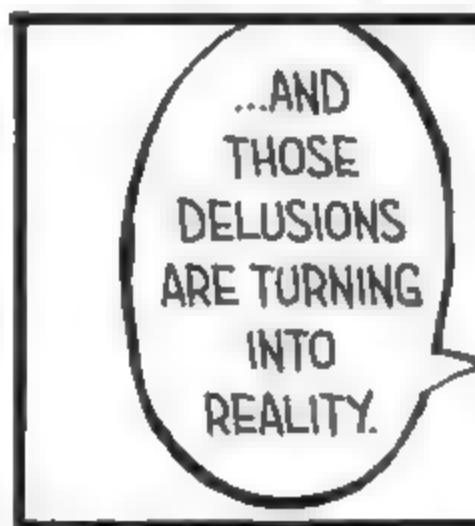
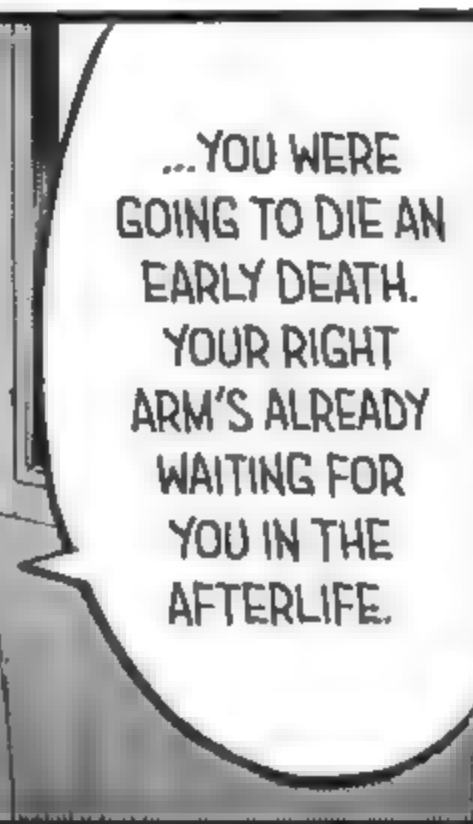


IT'S  
THE SAME  
EVERYWHERE.  
EVEN IF YOU TRY  
TO CRACK DOWN,  
THE HOLDING  
CELLS ARE ALREADY  
OVERFLOWING.

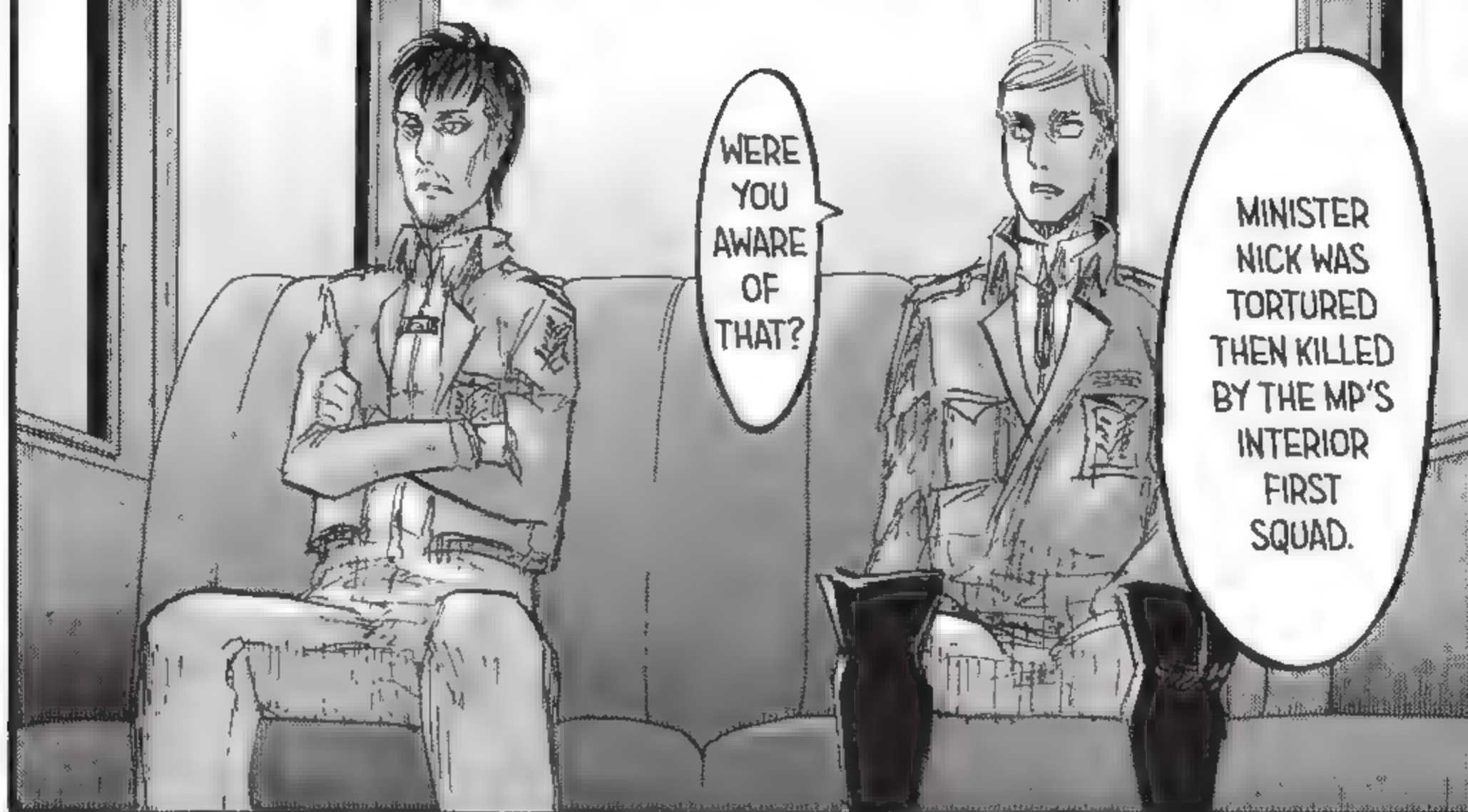
IS THAT A  
GANG OF CHILD  
THIEVES? I  
DIDN'T THINK  
THE ROYAL  
CAPITAL WOULD  
BE IN SUCH  
BAD  
SHAPE...











WERE  
YOU  
AWARE  
OF  
THAT?

MINISTER  
NICK WAS  
TORTURED  
THEN KILLED  
BY THE MP'S  
INTERIOR  
FIRST  
SQUAD.



...I  
SEE.



...  
NO.



WE  
DON'T  
KNOW  
THEIR  
REA-  
SONS.

WE'RE...  
JUST  
FOLLOW-  
ING  
ORDERS  
FROM  
ABOVE.



WHY DO  
YOU MPS  
WANT EREN  
SO BADLY  
THAT  
YOU'RE  
WILLING TO  
KILL FOR  
HIM?

IT  
SEEMS  
THEY  
WANTED  
TO KNOW  
EREN'S  
LOCATION.





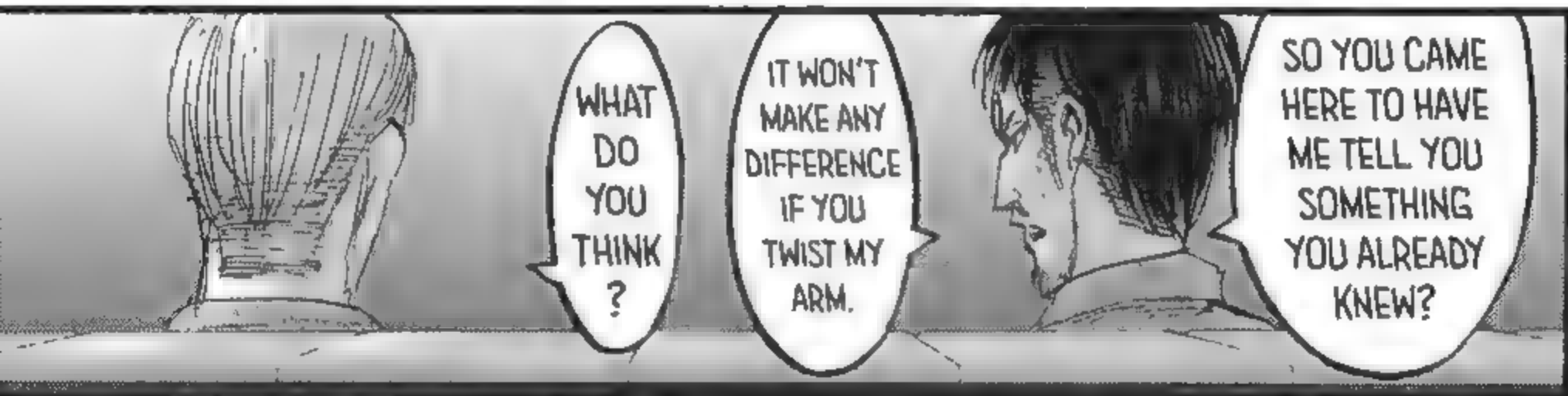
THEY  
HAVE A  
FREE PASS  
TO DO  
WHATEVER  
THEY  
WANT.

THERE'S  
NO ONE  
WHO  
EXERCISES  
OFFICIAL  
CONTROL  
OVER THEM,  
EITHER.



OUR  
CHAIN OF  
COMMAND IS  
DIFFERENT, AND  
WE DON'T HAVE  
ANY CONTACT  
WITH THEM...  
EVEN WE DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
THEY'RE  
THINKING.

AND  
WHILE WE'RE  
THE FACE OF  
THE MILITARY  
POLICE  
BRIGADE,  
THE INTERIOR  
MPS ARE ON  
THE OTHER  
SIDE.



WHAT  
DO  
YOU  
THINK  
?

IT WON'T  
MAKE ANY  
DIFFERENCE  
IF YOU  
TWIST MY  
ARM.

SO YOU CAME  
HERE TO HAVE  
ME TELL YOU  
SOMETHING  
YOU ALREADY  
KNEW?



HUH  
...?

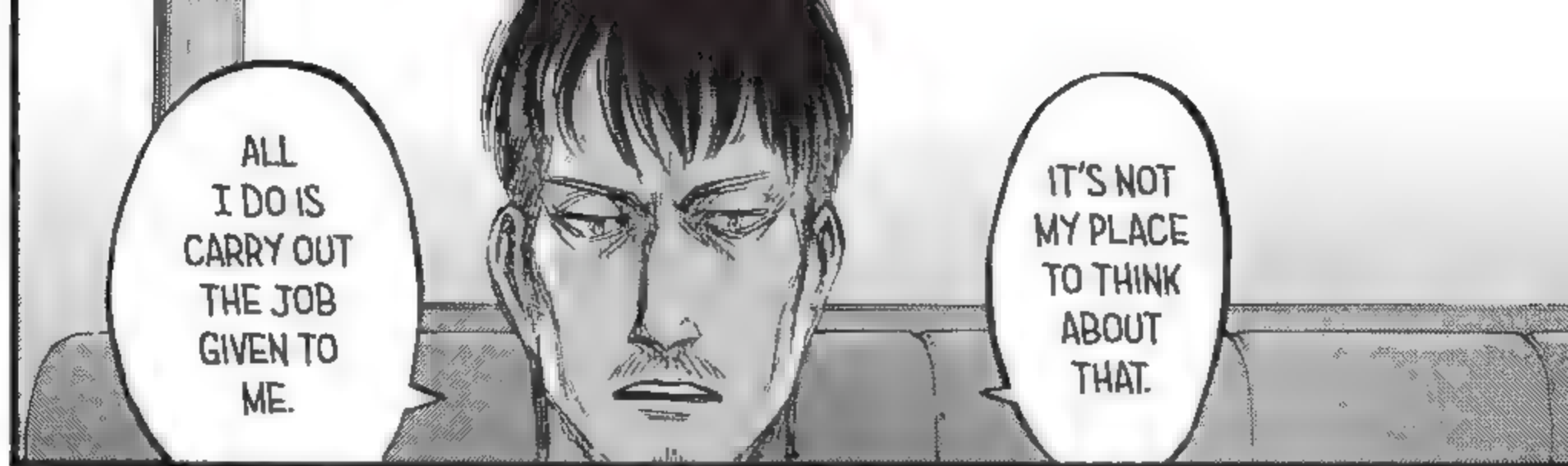
...



WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?

WILL  
HANDING  
EREN OVER  
TO THEM  
END THIS  
CRISIS  
INSIDE THE  
WALLS?





ALL  
I DO IS  
CARRY OUT  
THE JOB  
GIVEN TO  
ME.

IT'S NOT  
MY PLACE  
TO THINK  
ABOUT  
THAT.



WHY  
DON'T  
YOU LEARN  
TO FOCUS A  
LITTLE?

...



I HEARD  
HER THIRD  
ONE'S ON  
THE WAY.

HOW'S  
MARIE  
DOING  
?



I  
BETRAYED  
ALL OF YOU,  
AND SHAME-  
LESSLY  
SURVIVED  
TO THIS  
DAY.

...  
YEAH,  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.

BUT THEN  
YOU FELL IN  
LOVE WITH A  
GIRL AT OUR  
FAVORITE BAR,  
AND CHOSE TO  
PROTECT THAT  
ONE WOMAN  
INSTEAD OF  
JOINING THE  
CORPS.

AS I  
REMEMBER,  
YOU WANTED  
TO JOIN THE  
SURVEY  
CORPS  
ALONGSIDE  
ME.



...!

BUT... JUST  
BECAUSE YOU  
FOLLOW ORDERS  
AND PROTECT  
YOUR POSITION  
DOESN'T  
NECESSARILY  
MEAN YOU'RE  
PROTECTING  
YOUR  
FAMILY.



THE  
SOLDIERS  
WE TRAINED  
WITH WHO  
DIED BEFORE  
US FELT THE  
SAME WAY.  
YOU WERE  
ABLE TO  
LIVE IN A  
WAY WE  
COULD  
NOT.

...I  
RESPECT  
YOU.



I'M  
PROUD  
OF THE  
FACT  
THAT I  
HAVE A  
FAMILY.

...BUT  
I DON'T  
REGRET  
IT.





**HOPE...**

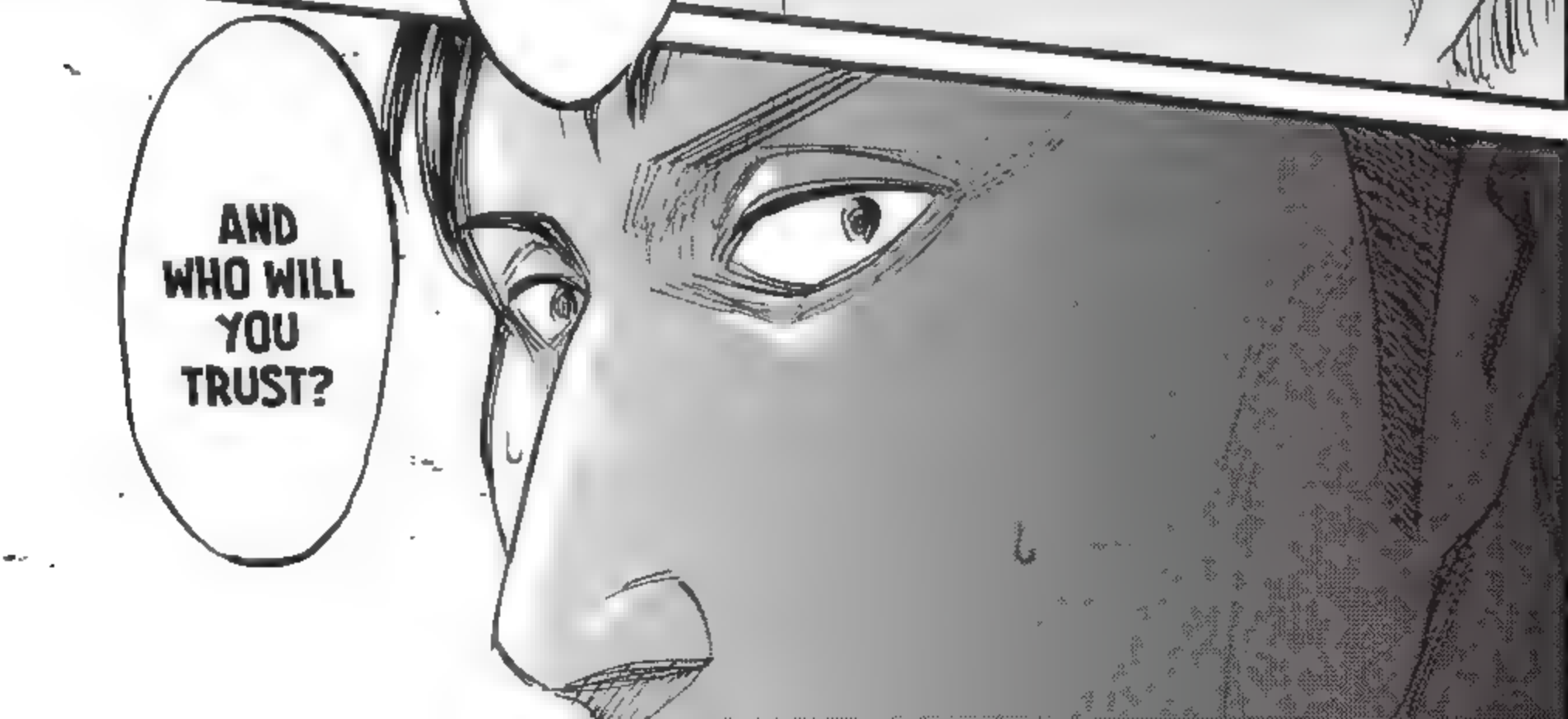
**...OR  
DE-  
SPAIR  
?**

**RIGHT  
NOW, OUR  
SMALL  
WORLD IS  
CHANGING.**



**WHO  
WILL  
CHOOSE  
?**

**WHO  
MAKES  
THAT  
CHOICE?**



**AND  
WHO WILL  
YOU  
TRUST?**



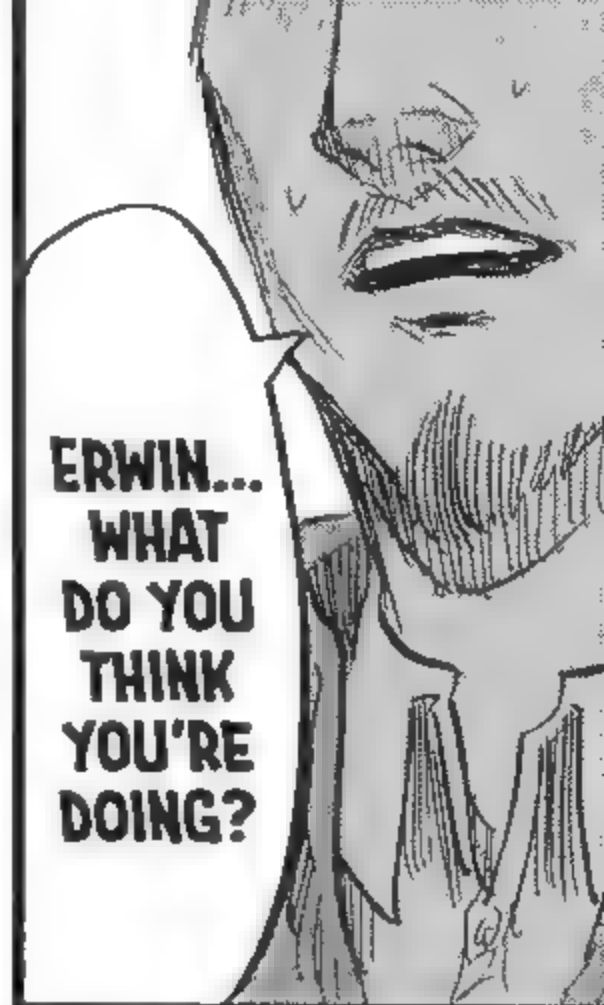


YOU JUST  
KEEP DOING  
YOUR JOB...  
I WANTED  
TO GIVE YOU  
A WARNING,  
THAT'S  
ALL.



IT'S  
THE  
ONLY  
THING  
I'M  
GOOD  
AT.

YOU  
KNOW  
ME. YET  
ANOTHER  
GAMBLE.



ERWIN...  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK  
YOU'RE  
DOING?



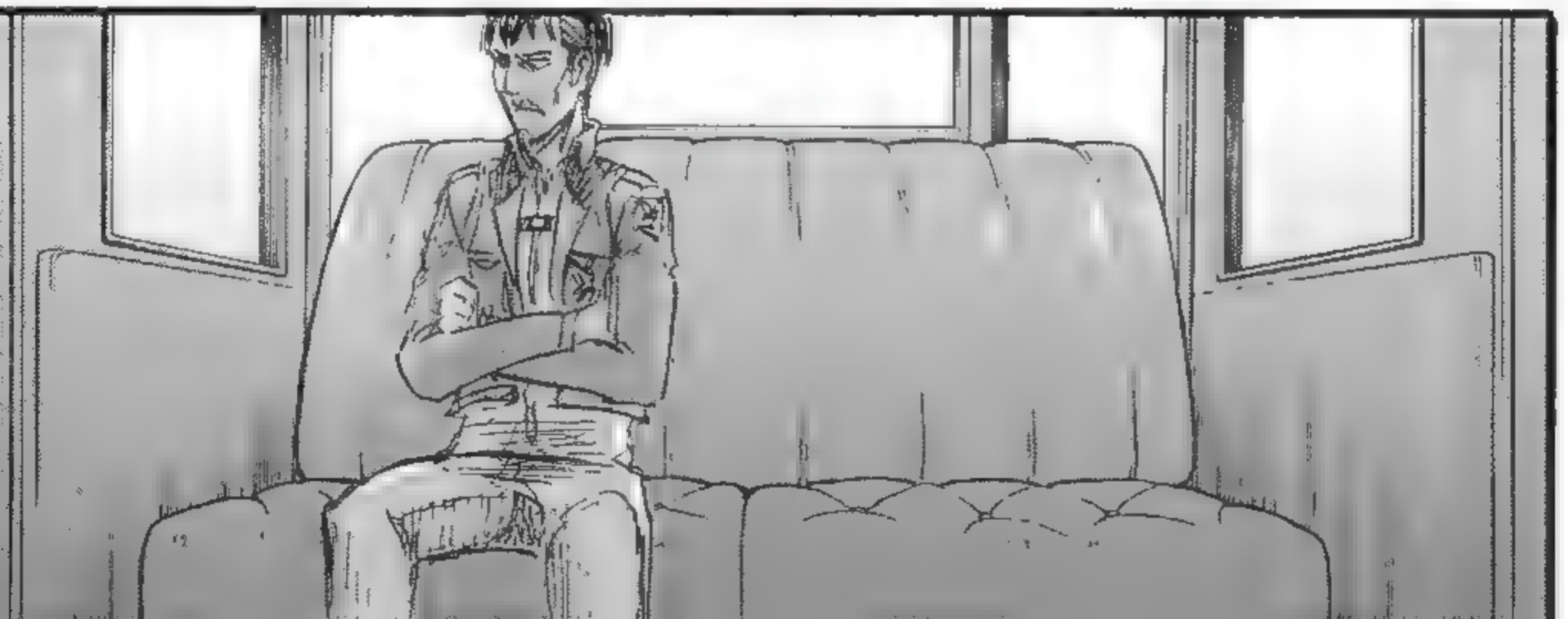
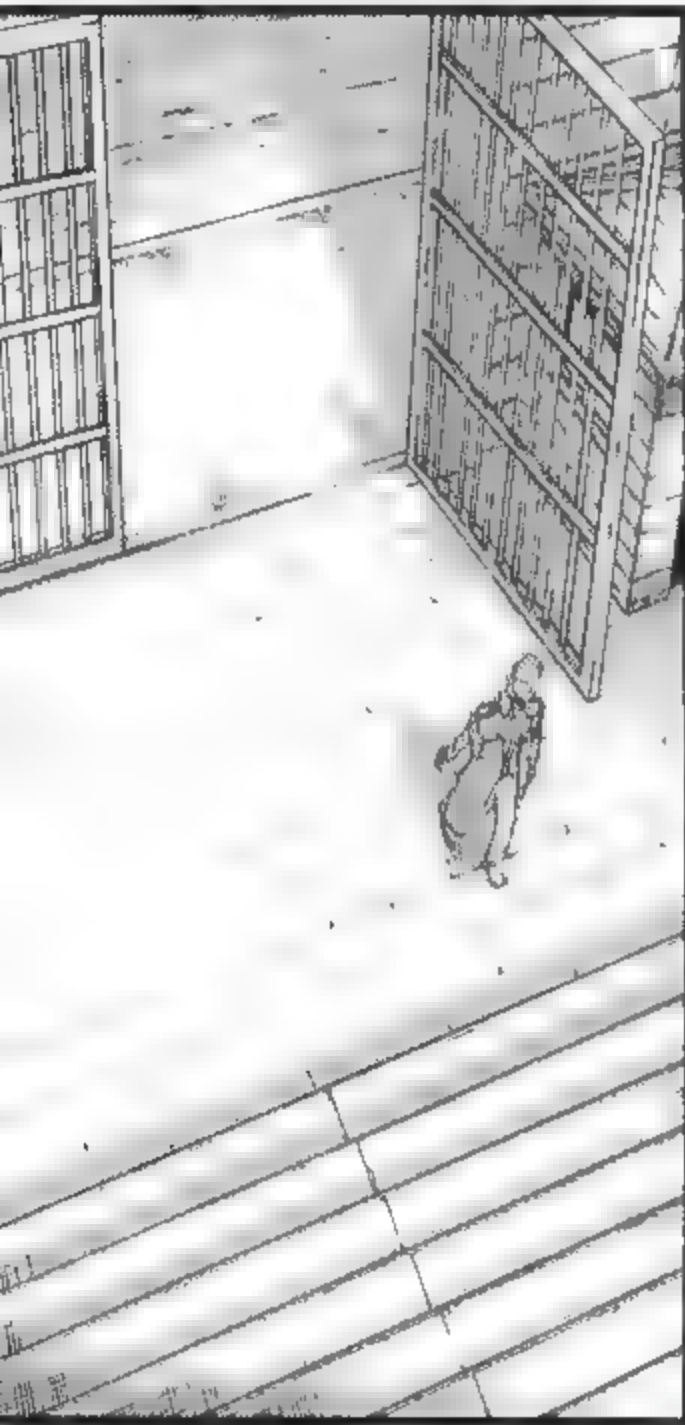
I WAS  
QUITE  
TAKEN  
WITH  
MARIE,  
MY-  
SELF.



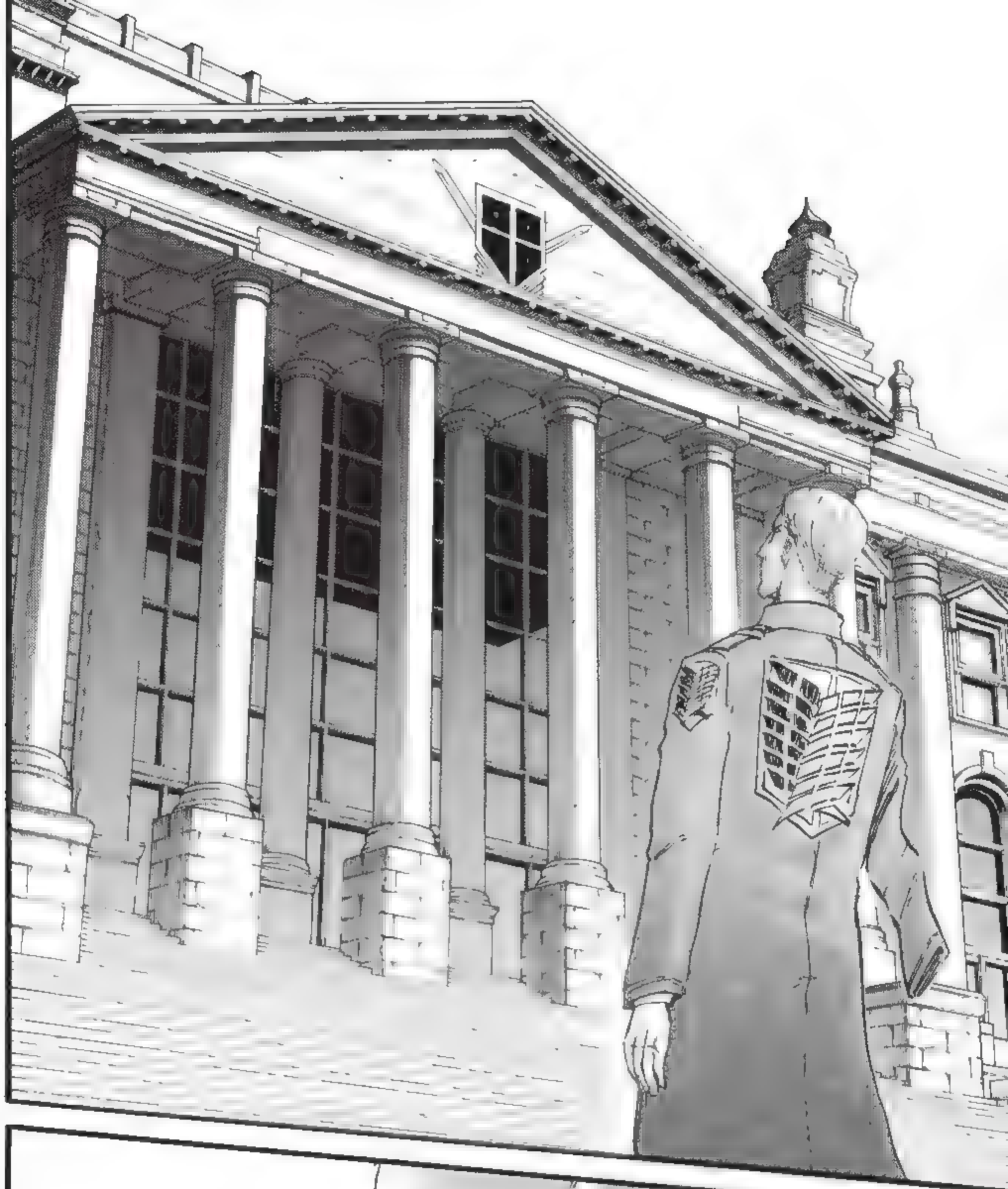
OH,  
AND  
ONE  
LAST  
THING  
...

I'LL  
LEAVE  
YOU  
HERE...

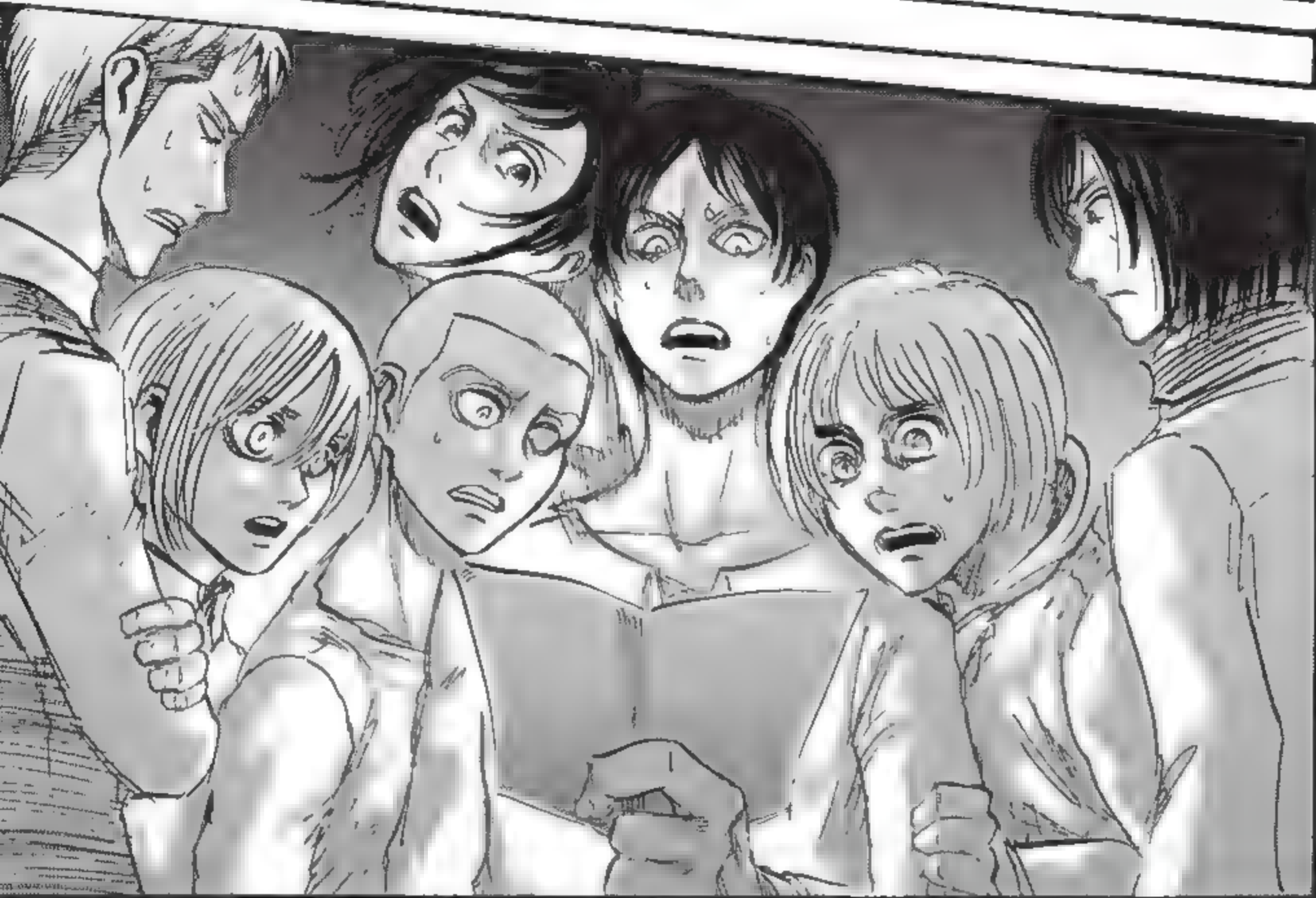












IN-  
STRUC-  
TIONS  
FROM  
ERWIN.





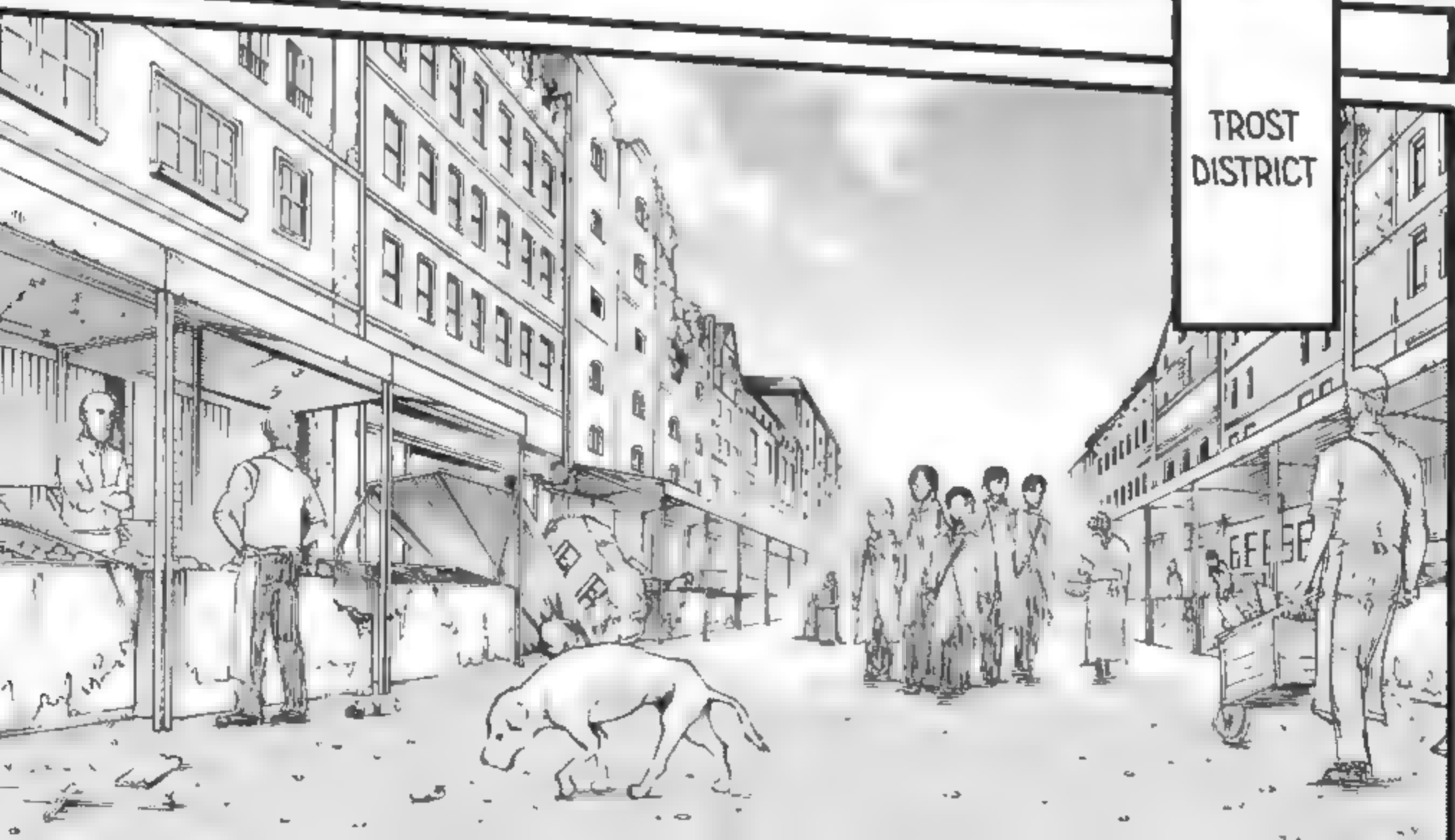
CAPTAIN...  
ARE  
THOSE  
INTERIOR  
MPS?

IF WE  
HAD  
STAYED  
ONE  
MORE  
NIGHT  
IN  
THERE  
...?



WHAT  
WOULD  
HAVE  
HAPPENED  
TO US...









HM?  
?



AREN'T  
YOU  
LEVI?!

HEY...



HAH...!  
I'VE ONLY  
EVER  
SEEN HIM  
ON A  
HORSE.

HEY,  
HE'S  
SMALL  
...



THAT'S  
LEVI,  
HUMAN-  
ITY'S  
STRON-  
GEST  
SOL-  
DIER!!

I'VE  
SEEN  
HIM  
BEFORE,  
TOO!

IT  
IS!  
!



YOU'RE  
IN THE  
WAY.

...



WE LOST  
OUT ON A  
LOT OF WORK  
BECAUSE OF  
THAT  
EVACUATION  
PLAN YOU  
SOLDIERS  
MADE ALL  
THAT NOISE  
ABOUT!

COME ON,  
CAPTAIN.  
HEAR US  
OUT!

WE  
HUMBLE  
FOLK  
JUST WANT  
A WORD  
WITH  
YOU.









YOU LAZE AROUND, GET NOTHING DONE, AND YOU STILL GET TO EAT...

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT FOR YOU PEOPLE, IS IT?



I WORK AND GET NOTHING IN RETURN ALL THE TIME.

I'VE ALWAYS BLAMED MYSELF IF I DON'T MAKE MONEY IN MY BUSINESS.

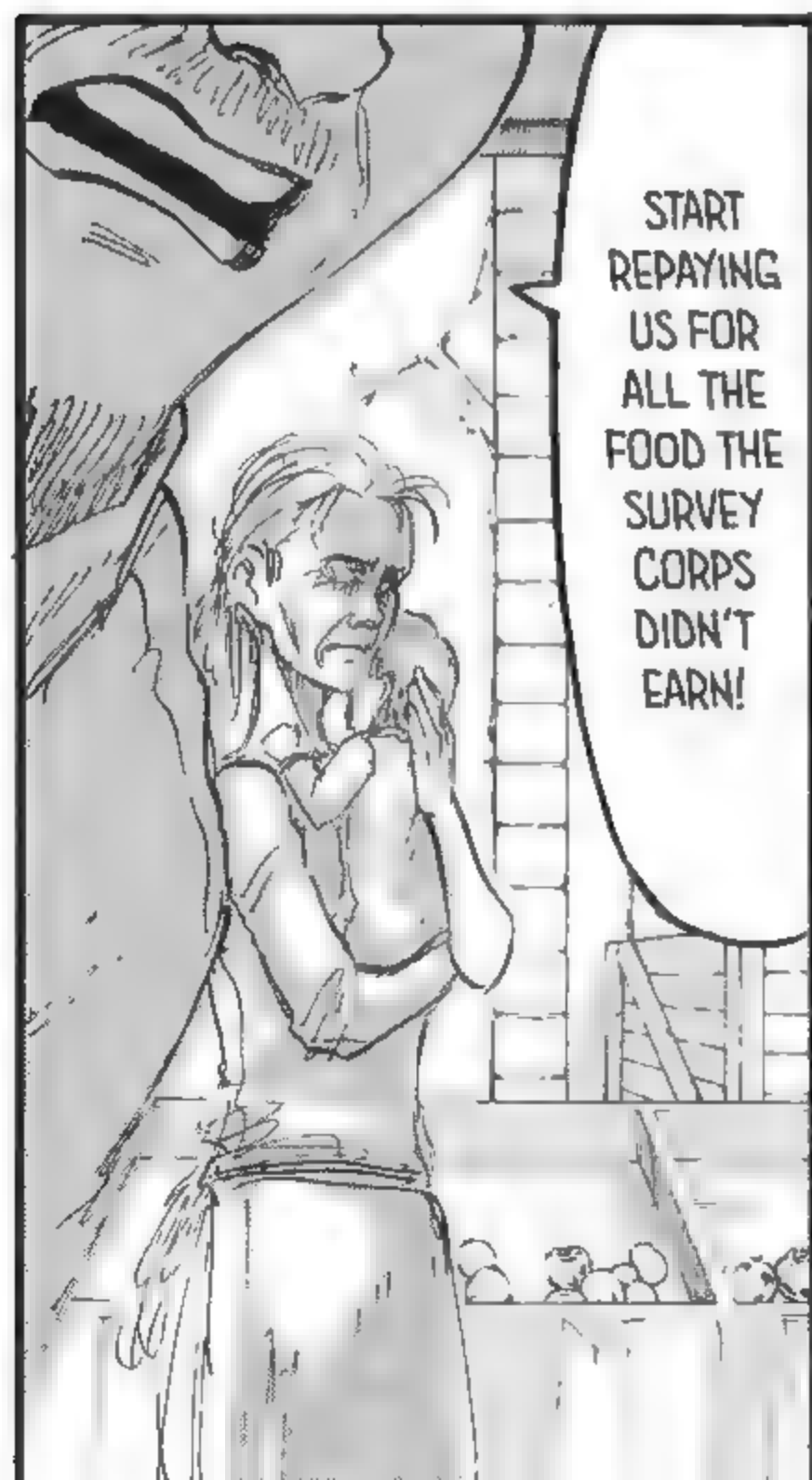


OUT ON A WALK, WOMEN IN TOW... ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY!

EEK!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, STROLLING THROUGH TOWN LIKE THIS? GOING SHOPPING?

RIGHT?



START REPAYING US FOR ALL THE FOOD THE SURVEY CORPS DIDN'T EARN!

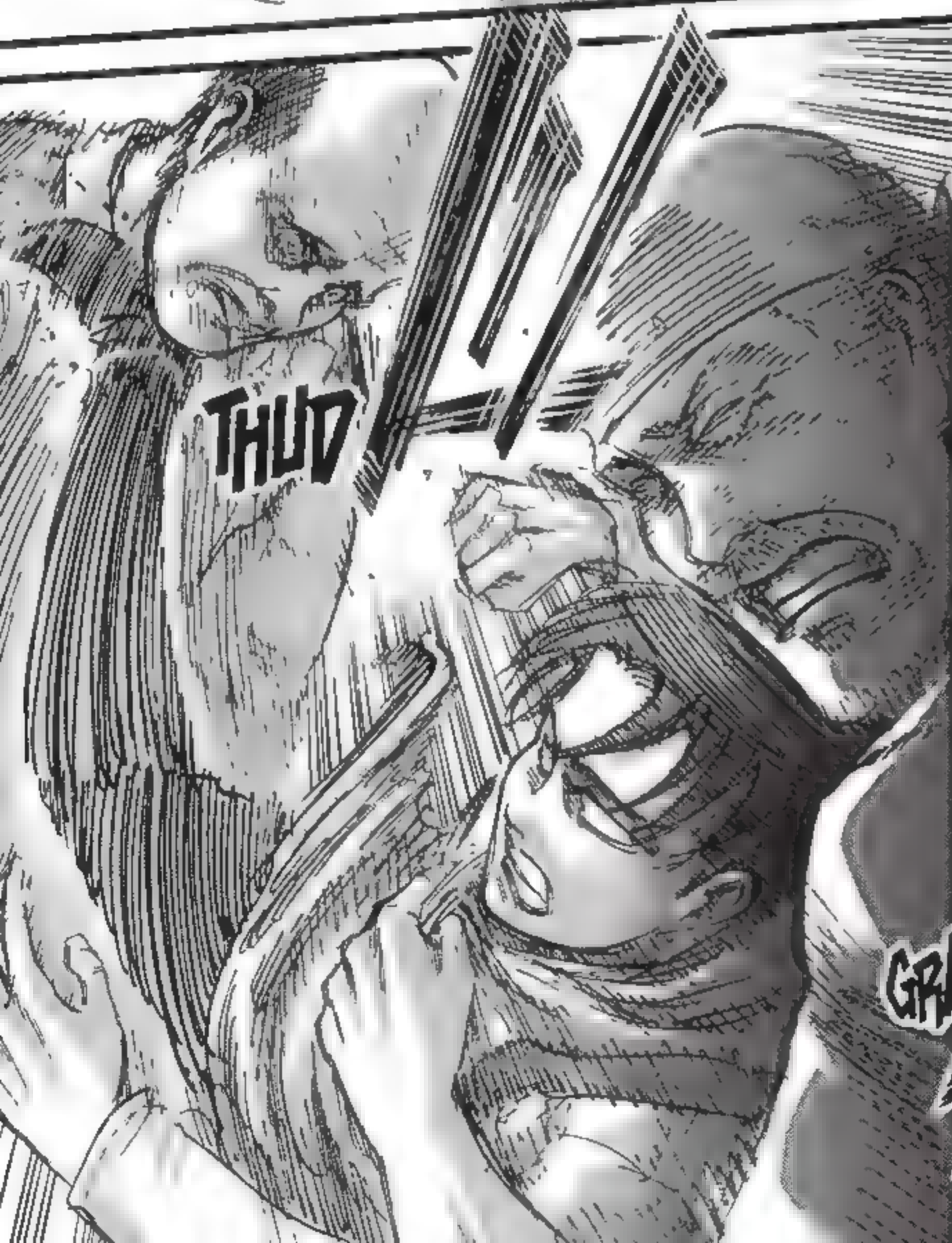


...JUST LEAVE SOME MONEY AND GO AWAY.



IF YOU'VE GOT ANY SHAME AT ALL...





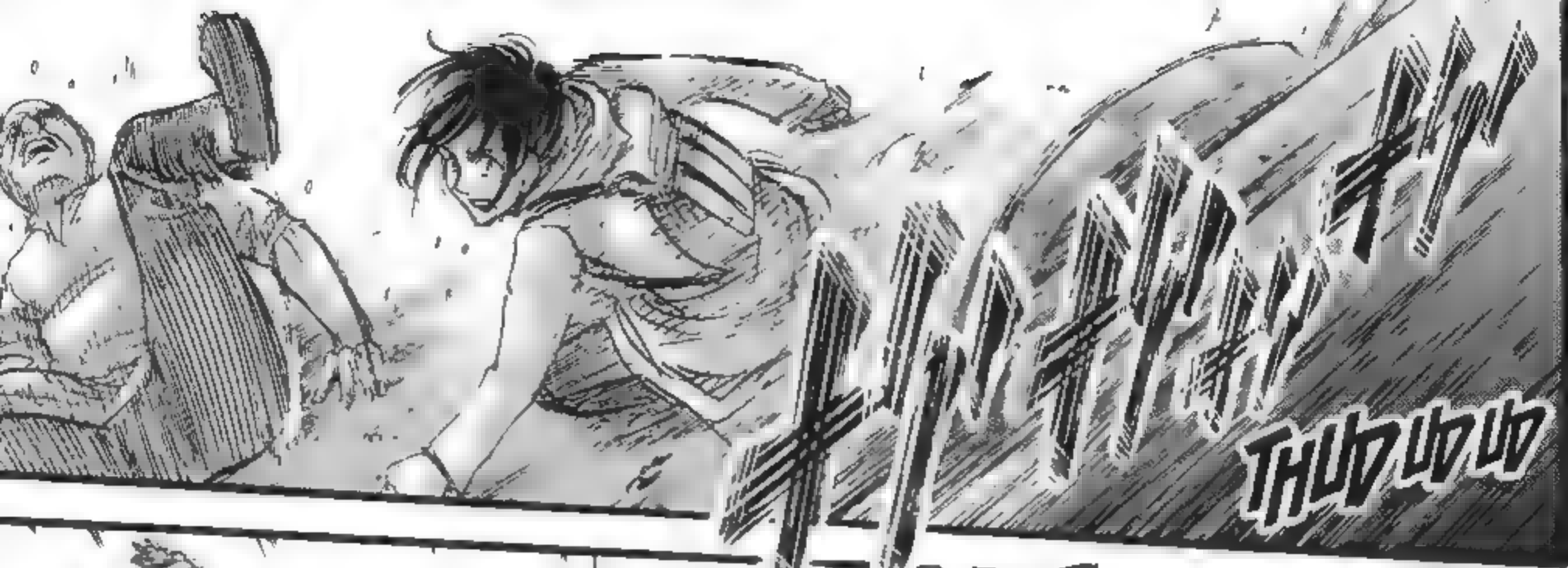


THERE'S A  
CARRIAGE  
COMING!!

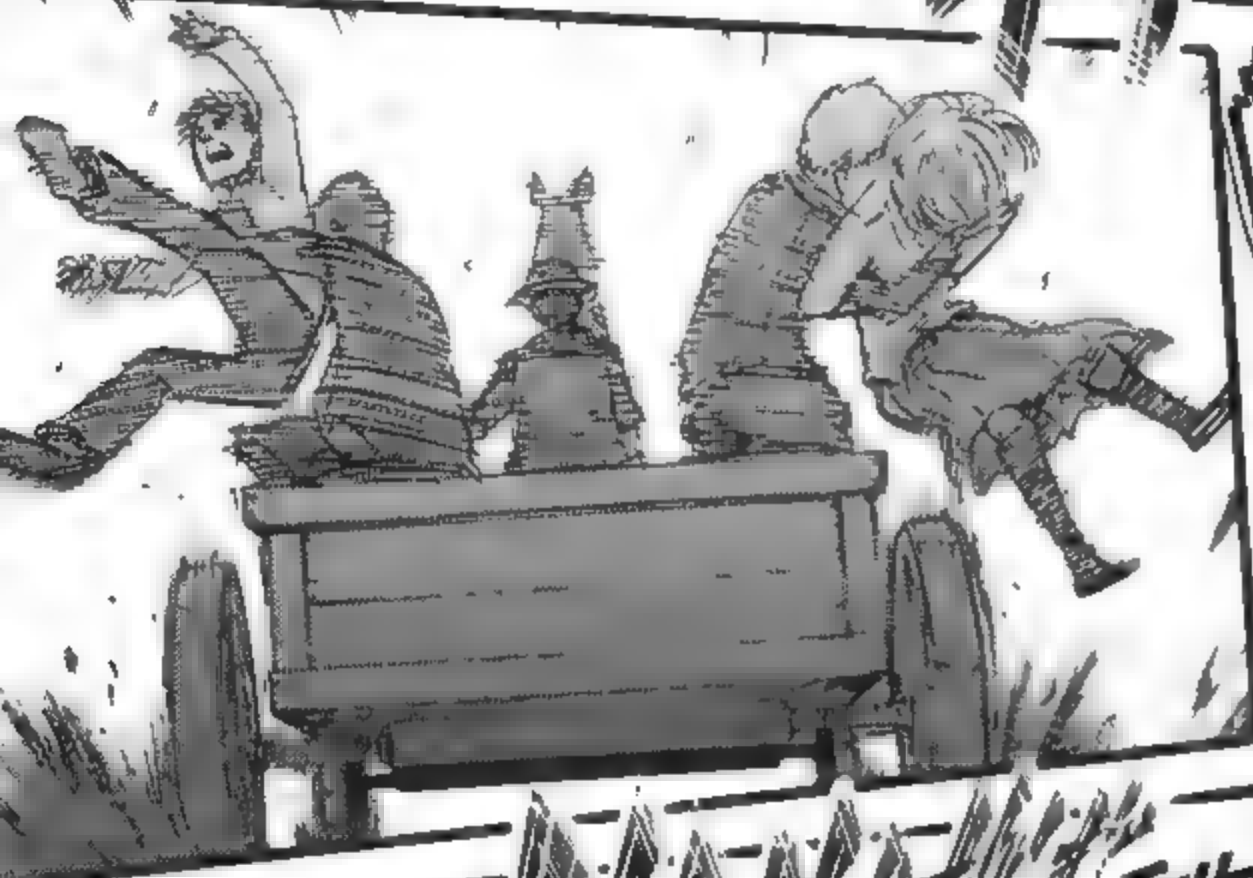
THUD UD  
UD UD







THUD THUD



AHH !!



THUD THUD

THEY'VE  
BEEN  
KIDNAPPED  
AGAIN!!

KRISTA  
AND  
EREN!!

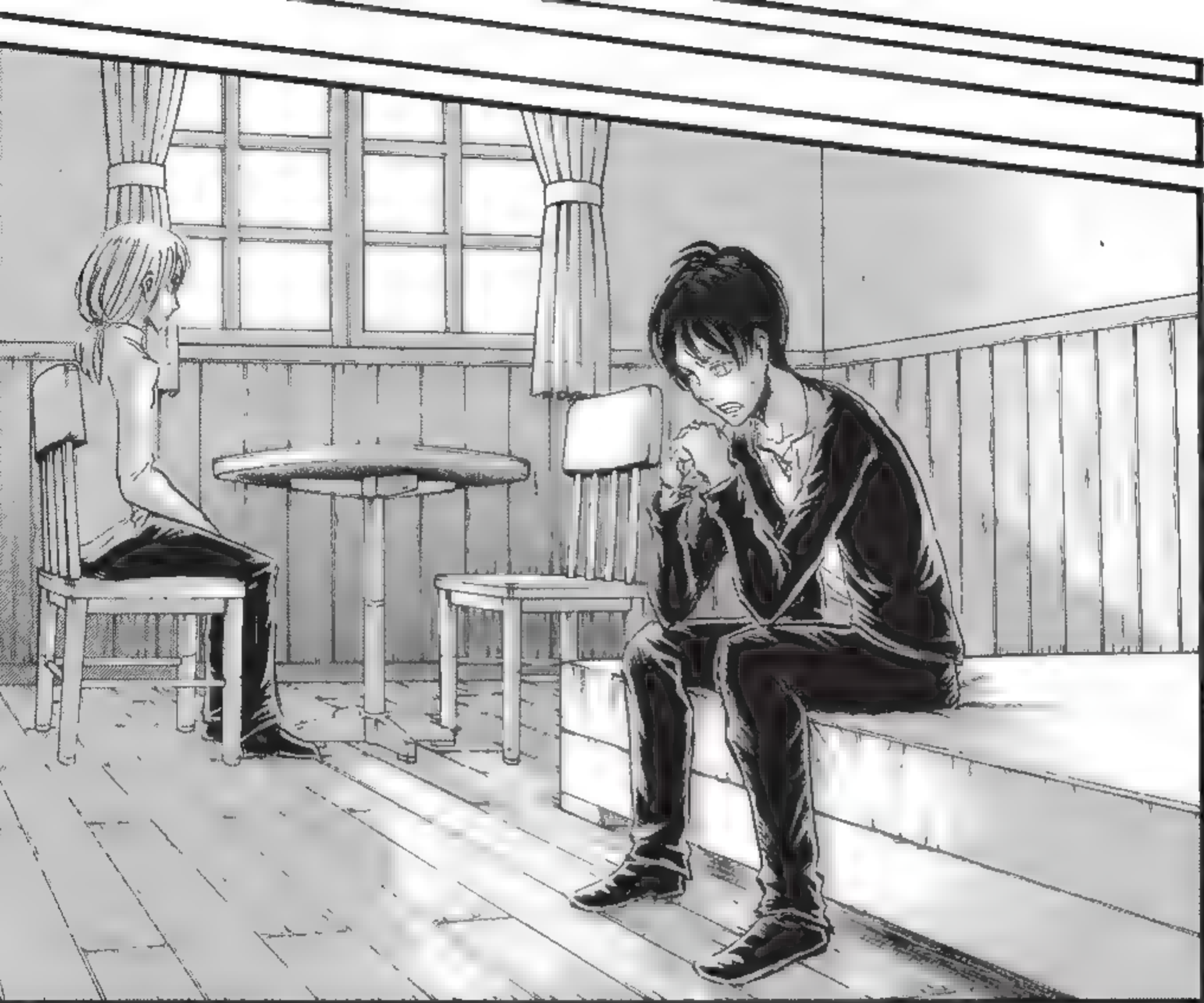
AR-

I MEAN,

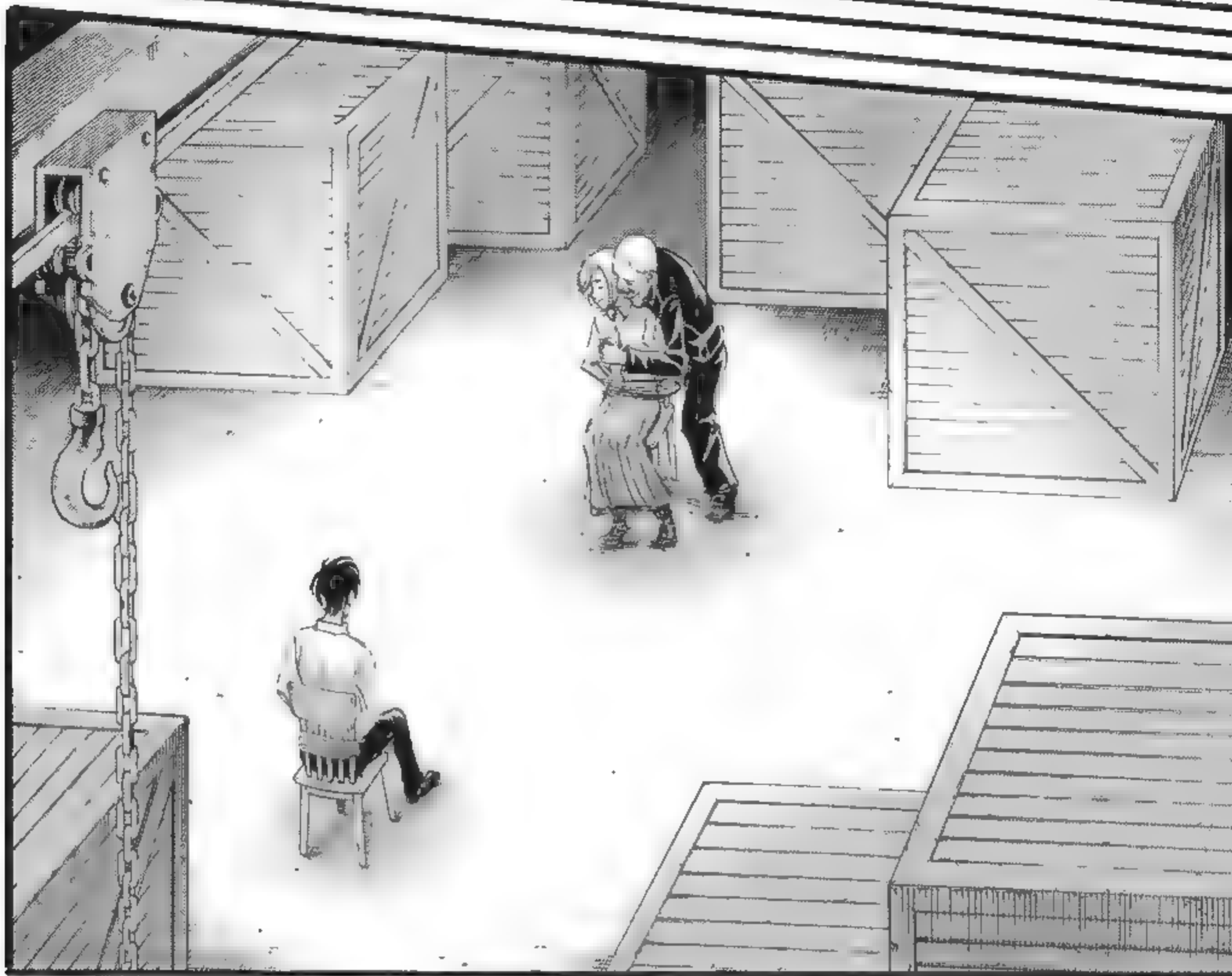




















WHAT'S IT  
LOOK LIKE  
INSIDE?

SWOOSH





HOW'S  
YOUR  
LEG?



I  
SEE.

THEY'RE  
GOING TO  
SEE  
THROUGH  
ARMIN'S  
DISGUISE IF  
WE DON'T  
HURRY...

I  
FEEL  
BAD  
FOR  
HIM,  
TOO.



FWOOO

IT'S  
MOVING  
PRETTY  
WELL...

IT'S  
NOT  
BAD.



# ATTACK on TITAN